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24-PAGE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Passing before their eyes, one by one, were the racist thugs they believed killed their son, Stephen



The five men who have overshadowed the Lawrence public inquiry like malign spirits, their names mentioned every day, from left, are Gary Dobson, Luke Knight, Jamie Acourt, David Norris and Neil Acourt

IF HE felt the slightest twinge of self-consciousness, he did not show it. Jamie Acourt swaggered into the room, glanced at the massed ranks of hostile faces and settled down in the witness box, adjusting the lapels of his freshly pressed suit.

Twenty feet away, Neville and Doreen Lawrence gazed steadily at this young man, with his slicked-back dark hair and insolent demeanour. Acourt slouched back in his chair, unfazed by the attention. In the public gallery, 20 people in matching T-shirts stood up in unison and turned their backs, revealing the slogan: "Murdered by racists. Killers on the loose."

The agonies endured by the Lawrences yesterday are unimaginable. Passing before their eyes, one after the other, were the men they believe to be the racist thugs who accosted their son, Stephen. In a suburban street five years ago, who stabbed him in the chest and left him bleeding on the pavement, who murdered him because he was black.

Over the past three months, an astonishing tale of police incompetence has been unfolding on the fourth floor of Hannibal House, a faceless 1960s office block in a grim corner of south London. Yesterday on day 50 of the public inquiry into Stephen's death, it was as if all the evidence heard so far had been just a prelude. For some of the detectives who investigated his murder were inept, stupid, possibly racist, even corrupt. But they didn't kill Stephen. Five youths did.

BY KATHY MARKS

Was it the five who strode past the crowds outside Hannibal House yesterday, blowing mocking kisses at the demonstrators yelling "racist scum"? These sinister-looking young men in their sharp suits and dark glasses were all charged with the murder at one time or another, but never convicted. Jamie Acourt, his brother, Neil, Luke Knight, Gary Dobson and David Norris - these are the men who have overshadowed the public inquiry like malign spirits, whose names have been

repeated over and over again.

Yesterday they finally turned up in person, obliged to answer questions for the first time about Stephen's death. This was the moment that the Lawrences had been awaiting for five years, half in dread. When it finally happened, 30 shaven-headed activists from the black radical Nation of Islam group almost ruined it for them, invading the chamber, scuffling with police and forcing a long adjournment. Outside, police used CS spray and a line of police held back a crowd of protesters shouting "Police protect the

murderers". Stephen's father came down and addressed the crowd; inside, his wife also appealed for calm. When the inquiry resumed an overflow room with video link had been set up.

No one wanted these ugly scenes, and yet there was an awful inevitability about them, given the intensity of the anger towards the five men. Acourt was hustled out of the chamber. In the room assigned to them, in a private wing of the building, he and the other witnesses waited as their lawyers demanded assurances from the

inquiry team that their safety would be guaranteed.

In truth, they look as if they can take care of themselves. Seeing them is a reminder of their curious twilight status. In the eyes of the law, they are all innocent men. Three of them - Dobson, Knight and Neil Acourt - were acquitted of the murder in 1996. The evidence against the other two was considered too weak to put before a jury.

Yet they remain, at the very least, the prime suspects, the only people who have been seriously in the frame. They were identified as the killers by 26 separate police informants in the first fortnight. The *Daily Mail* branded them murderers on its front page a year ago and invited them to sue, a challenge that they did not take up.

Infuriatingly, the most obvious and important question could not be put to them yesterday - the question painted on a poster outside Hannibal House. "Dobson, Neil and Jamie Acourt, Norris and Knight - did you kill Stephen Lawrence?" it asked. But, to the chagrin of the Lawrences, and of the inquiry team, the High Court had ruled that question out of order.

And so the chief inquirers - Edmund Lawson QC, the inquiry barrister, and Michael Mansfield QC, who represents the Lawrences - had to content themselves with skirting around the subject. Was he in the habit of carrying knives, Mr Lawson asked Jamie Acourt. No, he replied. How did he then account for the knife found in his possession when he was

arrested in 1991? He had used it to cut electrical wire when fitting a car stereo. What about the five knives, sword and revolver discovered in his home when he was arrested for Stephen's murder? No idea.

Jamie Acourt simply could not give a damn. He gave short, clipped answers to all the questions put to him. "No", "don't know", "it ain't nothing to do with me," he replied. He cocked his head on one side and met the gaze of both barristers, showing no sign of nervousness, no sign of embarrassment.

Everyone connected to the case has the habit of referring to Acourt and the other four as "the boys", which makes them sound oddly harmless. True, the youngest of them, Luke Knight, a nephew of Ronnie Knight, was just 15 when Stephen was stabbed. Jamie Acourt and David Norris - son of Clifford Norris, a feared professional criminal - were 16, Neil Acourt and Gary Dobson were 17.

Even at that tender age, though, they had a reputation for violence. The Acourt brothers, who called themselves the Krays, were said to be obsessed with knives. According to their contemporaries on the local council estate, you had to stab someone to become a member of their gang. The Acourts and Norris had already been implicated in a series of stabbings in the area.

A secret video, recorded by a police surveillance camera installed in Dobson's flat in late 1994, shows four of them brandishing knives and plunging

them into the furniture while uttering vile racist abuse.

They are no longer boys, if they ever warranted that description. Little else, though, has apparently changed in the intervening years. The Acourts, Dobson and Knight still live on the Brook estate in Eltham, near where Stephen was killed. Dobson and Knight live with their parents, at the same addresses as five years ago. Norris, who has a small child, still lives in his father's mansion in Chislehurst, south-east London, with its electric security gates and resident Rotweillers.

None of them are in taxable employment; nor do they claim the dole. Local sources say they remain friends and can be seen drinking together in pubs in south-east London.

Around the time of the inquest, in February 1997, they were also seen around with Jason Goolley and Kieran Hyland, two notorious racists convicted in 1991 in relation to the murder of another black youth, Roland Adams. For the past year, they appear to have been keeping a low profile.

The Lawrence Inquiry, pages 4 and 5



Doreen Lawrence appealing for calm yesterday

Paul Hackett/Reuters

Orangemen to defy Drumcree ban

ORANGEMEN declared yesterday that they would defy a ban on next Sunday's Drumcree march in Portadown, Co Armagh - raising fears of yet another summer of confrontation and destabilising disturbance. Announcing its decision to re-route the march away from the nationalist Garvaghy Road, the Parades Commission said that allowing the march to fol-

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

low its usual path would have a very serious impact on community relations throughout Northern Ireland. The news was instantly welcomed by nationalists but denounced by Unionists.

The Government and the RUC can be expected to face

rising pressure to reverse the decision in the days leading up to the parade. Orange Order officials have already spoken of organising protests not only at Drumcree itself but all over Northern Ireland.

The by-now traditional confrontation has given rise to widespread disorder in each of the last three years, often culminating in riots in both loyalist and

republican districts. Although the ban carries the force of law, the Orange Order does not recognise the commission. A spokesman yesterday described the decision as "outrageous".

The commission has ordered the marchers to return from their service at Drumcree parish church by the same route they take to get there. This means staying away from

Garvaghy Road, an option the Order regards as unacceptable.

Mn Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said recently: "The Parades Commission is in a difficult position. It always is. It's a no-win situation. It's a conflict of rights."

More than a thousand extra troops have been drafted into Northern Ireland in preparation for marching season disputes.

Lord Alderdice yesterday un-

expectedly resigned as leader of the centrist Alliance party following its poor showing in last week's assembly elections. The party won only six of the 108 seats, with the Women's Coalition taking two. The move leaves Lord Alderdice, who in the Lords supports the Liberal Democrats, free to stand for the post of Speaker or presiding officer.

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England v Argentina: It's about the battle of the Falklands, the hand of Maradona, and what it means to be English

What's football got to do with it?

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN
and LINUS GREGORIADIS

THE FRENZY surrounding tonight's World Cup game between England and Argentina may worry some people that the country is in the grip of nationalist hysteria and that the Sun's brand of xenophobia has finally triumphed.

After all, St George's flag, once the preserve of neo-fascism, seems to be flying everywhere - on the tops of cars and from the most respectable residences.

So is tonight's match just a sick replay of the Falklands War?

"There is a danger of stepping over the mark between patriotism and jingoism," said one England fan, Mark Langford, 24, a trainee solicitor from west London. "I can imagine

LAST TIME ENGLAND LIVED ARGENTINA THEY WERE A POOR COUNTRY RUN BY AN ARROGANT RIGHT WING DICTATOR - AND ARGENTINA WASN'T MUCH BETTER



some of the headlines if we win - or if we lose."

The Sun has already raised the temperature with its front page on Saturday: "Now Bring on the Argies." But, talking to fans, it is clear that the battle on their minds is not the one in the south Atlantic. It is the one England lost in 1986. That was when Argentina's Diego Maradona committed a foul by pushing the ball into the net with his hand. It was the World Cup quarter-finals. England were rattled into defeat by what Maradona later referred to as "the hand of God".

That moment "has lived on in English footballing history as

a score to be settled," according to Sean Perkins, research associate at Leicester University's Centre for Football Research. "Of course football is influenced by national tensions borne out of armed conflicts. But fans are more interested in exacting revenge over a football conflict than a military conflict."

Until now, however, they have had little chance to get that revenge: the two nations rarely play each other and don't compete at club level.

Andy Glanville, 25, a banker from Rayleigh, Essex, says: "It's a bigger game because of the Hand of God thing. I think the Falklands War is long buried. Obviously servicemen are upset, but it's in the past now. This is football not war."

When Maradona cheated, he offended a notion of fair play which is a defining feature of the English game. It built on a row going back to the 1966 World Cup about dirty play by the Argentinians against England. This is a country which prides itself on heroes such as Sir Bobby Charlton who was never booked. Glenn Hoddle, an evangelical Christian, loves to claim the moral high ground. In this World Cup, England is top of the Fair Play League, as it was in 1990, the last time it competed in the finals.

The highest grudge match for England would not, in any case, be against Argentina, but Germany. Again, it is tempting to see this as a replay for military conflict: the tabloids stirred that up during the European Championships in 1996. This century's world wars are a factor, but the main issue is that Germany knocked England out in the 1990 World Cup and the European Championships in 1996 in closely fought matches decided on penalties.

Mick Thomas, 35, a builder from Stevenage, catches the mood: "The best team to beat would be the Germans. We always seem to be so unlucky



Richard Denham, an England fan, has turned his home in Elephant and Castle, south London, into a shrine to football jingoism

Gretel Esigania

against them during penalty shoot-outs. We just don't like Germans. But as long as we win the World Cup, it doesn't really matter who we beat. That said, if it's not us, then I hope it's not Germany or Argentina."

So is Britain in the grip of

sun-style jingoism? Flag-waving has certainly become trendy, perhaps as a way of gaining a sense of identity in these uncertain times of devolution and the creation of the euro currency. Jimmy Ford, who owns a flower stall in central London

said: "I'm surprised by the type of people who buy them. It's right across the board. I see people coming down from the City and buying six foot flags. Where are they draping them? Out of their suburban houses and their BMWs?"

Alison Howells, 40, a civil servant from Newcastle, bemoans the whole event: "It's never off the television. If you are not interested in it there is a problem. I'm not sure if it brings the country together. I watched an England game with some Scot-

land supporters and they were supporting the other team." But Shaun Spiers, Arsenal fan and Labour MEP for London South-east is more hopeful. "People are getting caught up in the whole thing. I don't see that is frightening. People are con-

sciously projecting their sense of Englishness, which is quite new - we first saw the flag of St George a lot during Euro 96. Football is a game we invented and it brings lots of people together. That seems OK to me."

World Cup, pages 28-32

In Buenos Aires, they think England are the 'pirates'

Things were different back in 1986. The weather was better, for one thing. We awaited England's World Cup quarter-final against Argentina in the midst of a heatwave. This year it's broilies and boots all round. So what else has changed? Or is it still the case that what goes around comes around and plus ça change, plus c'est la même World Cup?

POLITICS: IN 1986...

Tory PM Mrs Thatcher supervises a rapidly overheating economy. Police are involved in clashes on picket lines outside Rupert Murdoch's defiant new line on EMU.

FASHION: IN 1986...

Vogue tells readers to prepare for their hols with "the essential white linen suit... new this trousers... a great white shirt and... towelling dressing gown".

FILM: IN 1986...

Top Gun, a mindless mix of MTV rock vid and Uncle Sam propaganda, is the hot ticket at the cinema.

MUSIC: IN 1986...

Queen play their last-ever concert. England's World Cup song, "We've Got the Whole World at Our Feet", staggers to No 66 before collapsing.

PEOPLE: IN 1986...

Arise Sir Bob Geldof. And all hail Sarah Ferguson, who dressed up as a police woman (with Princess Diana) to crash Andy's stag party at Annabel's.

FOOTBALL: IN 1986...

Manager Bobby Robson endures defeat by Portugal. A new-look team plays brilliantly until meeting Argentina. Diego Maradona and the infamous Hand of God.

IN 1998

Labour PM Mr Blair faces an overheating economy. His spin-doctors are involved in clashes with journalists over Mr Murdoch's defiant new line on EMU.

IN 1998

Vogueettes are advised to go for "strappy broderie anglaise... updated swimwear that is blatantly sexy and hi-tech".

IN 1998

Independence Day, a mindless mix of computer-graphic effects and tub-thumping jingoism, does the business... \$800m and still counting.

IN 1998

120,000 people get stuck in the mud at Glendonbury. Fat Les's "Vindaloo" and the Skinner/Baddeley/Lightning Seeds "Three Lions" dominate the charts.

IN 1998

Arise Lords Melvyn Bragg and Waheed Ali. And three cheers for Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, who dressed up as a fairy for George Michael's 35th birthday party.

IN 1998

Captain Glenn Hoddle endures defeat by Portugal. A new-look team plays one good game before meeting Argentina. Gabriel Batistuta and... who knows?

AND IN ARGENTINA

In '86 the country slid into hyper-inflation, but current President Menem now runs a low-inflation economy that's big on privatisation: sounds familiar.

AND IN ARGENTINA

Argentine women pride themselves on their chic, wearing all the big global labels. Buenos Aires was the site of the only Harrods outside Knightsbridge.

AND IN ARGENTINA

Eighties movies featured a new group of actors, including Miguel Angel Solá. Now legal stars like Cecilia de Paso feature in intimate, emotional films.

AND IN ARGENTINA

If you were a hip Argentine, your little daughter would love Los Spice Girls. But you'd go for the female contemporary sound of Soledad.

AND IN ARGENTINA

Gossip columnists follow the movements of models Valeria Mazza and María Vesque, utilities uber-fat-car Francisco Macri and lady gyno Ana María Fontana.

AND IN ARGENTINA

The match is the only topic of debate in the media, which refers to Britain as "the pirates", a cliché that dates back to 1966.

ON THE garden wall of the British embassy in Buenos Aires, a scrawl reminds people in English: "Remember the Hand of God, 1986." The English, of course, do not need to be reminded. The rest of the graffiti is more elaborate, and obscene in a very English way - it reads more like the work of one of the yobs who wrecked businesses in Marseilles.

This is just part of the build-up to today's England-Argentina match which has bred a whole new glut of fantasies about settling scores. The only subject on the radio and television is "the" match, which has greater significance even than the issue of qualification. The wellbeing of the vast Argentine ego rests on the shoulders of eleven men on a field in France.

Argentines want to avenge military defeat, while the English squad is bent on justice. When Diego Maradona said that the goal he scored with his hand in Mexico in 1986 was scored by the Hand of God, he could not have known that he was coining a phrase that would ensure his act would be etched for ever into the English national psyche. For the Argentines, who remember how their sons died at the hands of the British four years earlier, justice has a different meaning. Maradona arrives in France today to support his squad and

BY ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL
in Buenos Aires

his presence has fired up the Argentine popular press. The mass-circulation Cronica and the left-wing Pagina 12 both refer to the English as "pirates" - a cliché coined back in 1966 when England and Argentina clashed, and Alf Ramsey called the Argentines "animals".

Fears that Argentine hooligans might clash with the "pirate" army in France are supported by the arrest of three for causing serious injury to two Croatian fans during the match last week, which football supporters in Buenos Aires see as deeply embarrassing.

Although the Falklands-Malvinas war in which over 700 men were killed on both sides in 1982 heightens emotions, the sports writer Graciela Ortiz of the English-language Buenos Aires Herald, insists that in Argentina most people are "thinking of football" - the Malvinas islands dispute has nothing to do with this.

Among many observers the "Hand of God" incident is a source of embarrassment and not pride. But when Maradona arrives in France today, it will be foremost in the mind of most who witness his arrival. And perhaps the greatest Argentine fear is that his presence will serve to fire up the English team more than his own.

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				\$100-\$999	Annually	6.40	5.12
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\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	7.15	5.72				
\$100-\$999	Annually	6.40	5.12				
\$100,000 or more	Monthly	7.25**	5.80				
\$25,000-\$99,999	Monthly	7.02**	5.62				
\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	6.93**	5.54				
\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	6.22**	4.98				
\$100,000 or more	Annually	6.45	5.16				
\$25,000-\$99,999	Annually	6.10	4.88				
\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	5.60	4.48				
\$100-\$999	Annually	5.25	4.20				
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\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	5.13**	4.10				
\$25,000 or more	Annually	6.10	4.88				
\$10,000-\$24,999	Annually	5.60	4.48				
\$25,000 or more	Monthly	5.94**	4.75				
\$10,000-\$24,999	Monthly	5.46**	4.37				
\$5,000-\$9,999	Monthly	5.13**	4.10				
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At least you can get a table at Le Gavroche

BY CATHERINE BOULLAY

FOR THE non-football fan, London's social scene at present feels something like a cultural desert. But the World Cup is providing one unexpected bonus: rare tables at the most exclusive restaurants - and around the magic time of 8pm.

Normally one might wait up to six months for a table at restaurants such as the Oxo Tower, Pharmacy, or Le Gavroche. Some restaurants seem positively to revel in informing the unwary diner of their lack of vacancies.

Yesterday, however, many were unusually inviting. Those happy to take a prime-time

booking during kick-off included San Lorenzo, the favourite haunt of Diana, Princess of Wales; Pharmacy, Damien Hirst's ultra-trendy eatery, and Granita, favourite of the New Labour set.

The River Café was reporting double the number of cancellations, while at the Oxo Tower, where one might usually have to book five weeks in advance, tables were available at 8pm or 9pm.

Silvano Giraldin, general manager of Le Gavroche in Mayfair, said that customers tended to cancel when they realised England were playing. "The World Cup is costing us money," Mr Giraldin lamented.



Tomorrow only... seats at Le Gavroche and Oxo Tower

"On the Monday England played Tunisia we had about 30 cancellations for lunch."

"Last Friday... there were 30 cancellations and not one



single British person in the restaurant."

Tonight, he said, a company which had booked a private room for a party had to cancel

because so many people had dropped out. "Three or four tables have already been cancelled and we are expecting more last-minute cancellations because of the World Cup."

A spokesman for Pharmacy said bookings go down 10 per cent when England play, while Granita blamed the World Cup, Wimbledon and the school holidays for unusual 15 per cent drops.

A rare exception to the trend was the Michelin-starred Aubergine which is, ironically, owned by the former footballer Gordon Ramsey. Footie or no footie, you'd still have to wait a stomach-rumbling six months for your meal there.



Neil Acourt, one of the five men suspected of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, walks through a crowd of protesters as he arrives to give evidence to the tribunal inquiry in south London yesterday

'Black people call each other niggers, so why does it matter if white people say it?'

THE FIVE young men suspected of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence did not want to attend the inquiry to give evidence yesterday, and had done everything possible to avoid doing so. What emerged was a day of cross-examination - with a long interruption after a violent fracas - which was dramatic and often acrimonious, with both tension and tempers on edge.

Before giving evidence, the three who appeared yesterday - Jamie Acourt, 21, his brother Neil, 22, and 21-year-old David Norris - were told the rules of engagement. Although they would not be prosecuted for anything they said at the inquiry, they could face charges of perjury if they are found to have lied.

Jamie Acourt was the first in the witness box. When Michael Mansfield QC, for the Lawrence family, began questioning him he repeatedly denied suggestions that he was racist or carried knives, although he admitted he had been caught by police and prison officers with lock knives in his possession.

He also insisted he could not remember a police surveillance video of his brother Neil and the other suspects which showed them repeatedly using extreme racist language and graphically talking about violence.

Jamie Acourt, who did not appear in the video because he was in custody when it was made in 1994, said he had no comment to make about the behaviour and remarks made.

At one stage in the video David Norris talks about shooting black people, saying he would skin them and set them alight.

Mr Mansfield asked Jamie Acourt: "These are your views are they not?"

He replied: "No."

MM: "Is that an honest reply?"

JA: "That is an honest reply"

Mr Mansfield, asked him about a number of occasions on which he was arrested for carrying offensive weapons.

MM: "You like carrying weapons in public, don't you?"

JA: "No."

Mr Mansfield asked if on 2 Octo-

ber 1991, he was banned from Kid-

brooke School in south-east London.

JA: "You tell me."

MM: "Have you forgotten that?"

JA: "Yes I have."

He eventually admitted he was expelled for possession of a monkey wrench.

Mr Mansfield asked him if on 23 October 1991, he had been cautioned by police for carrying an offensive weapon in a public place.

JA: "You tell me."

Mr Mansfield also asked him about an incident when he was arrested in Chislehurst high street, south-east London, on 30 May 1992, for carrying an offensive weapon. He admitted he had had a police-style

truncheon. When asked where he got it, he said: "I can't remember."

He was then questioned by Ian McDonald QC, for Duwayne Brooks - who was with Stephen when he died.

Mr McDonald asked him if he had the same hairstyle now as in 1993.

Acourt replied: "I don't know."

IM: "You can't even remember that?"

JA: "No, wasn't there a police photo when I was arrested?"

Neil Acourt began giving evidence after his brother and admitted carrying knives when he went to areas with large black communities. He said he had adopted the practice for "self protection" after being accused of Stephen's murder in 1993.

"I received loads and loads of life-threatening calls, so I thought to

make sure I was safe, I would do that."

Asked by Edmund Lawson QC, counsel for the inquiry, where he took this knife, Neil Acourt replied:

"If I was going to an area where there were more black people than whites, yes."

He was also asked about a sword in a scabbard found stuffed down the back of a sofa at the house he shared with his brother Jamie. He replied: "What is that?"

Mr Lawson responded to laughs from the public gallery: "A scabbard is the thing a sword goes into, other than a body."

Neil Acourt later admitted using the word "nigger", but denied he was a racist. "Black people call each other niggers, so why does it mat-

ter if white people say that?" he said.

He insisted that the extreme racist and violent language he used in a police surveillance video, had not been sincere, but prompted by the stress he had endured after being accused of Stephen's murder. "It is just boredom and anger. It is not as if I'm going to do it, is it," he said.

"I've been through a lot, and when you have been through a lot you say things you don't mean."

Asked about a gun found by detectives at his home he said he never intended to use it and expected it was normal for teenage boys to collect such weapons. Mr Lawson said: "It is not the sort of item that appears in a catalogue of Toys R Us."

Neil Acourt also denied any recollection of his being expelled from

the Samuel Montague Football Club for threatening a black opponent with a knife in 1991, describing the allegation as "a fairy story".

During questions from Mr Mansfield, Neil Acourt claimed he was being "persecuted" over the murder of Stephen Lawrence. "I have never dooe anything wrong," he said.

Mr Mansfield took him through the transcript of a police surveillance video which showed him making obscene racist comments.

MM: "That's a joke?"

NA: "Yes, everyone makes jokes about everyone."

MM: "That's the way you have been talking about blacks?"

NA: "Since we have been persecuted."

Later he admitted he suspected

the flat where the video was filmed had been bugged by police.

MM: "Why should you think you are being bugged, if you have dooe nothing wrong?"

NA: "I have never done anything wrong and I'm here today, so that's a silly question."

The video shows him playing with knives, staging a mock knife attack on one of his friends and making numerous racist comments. He is heard referring to the politician Enoch Powell as "the greatest, you are the don of dons".

MM: "What's funny about that?"

NA: "It's not funny at all, is it, but when you're young at that age and you are angry and you are laughing and joking, you say things, you don't mean them."

And he accused Mr Mansfield of misrepresenting the video. "When you watch the video you can see laughing and joking going on, it's obvious you are going to portray it the other way. It's a joke."

He admitted going out "shivvered up", meaning he carried a knife, but insisted it was for his own security.

The third man to appear, David Norris, said he was "very angry" about his treatment since the 1993 killing. Asked by Mr Lawson about racist comments he was seen making on the surveillance video, he said his behaviour was "very immature".

Having just denied ever having used racist abuse, sections of the transcript from the video were quoted to him and Mr Lawson asked him again: "Did you use racist abuse?"

He replied: "Yes, I did, on the video I have, yes, because I was very angry at what's been happening to me over the last five years."

Under questioning from Mr Mansfield he admitted he was out when the police came to arrest him for Stephen's murder, although it was before 7am. Asked where he had gone, he said: "I can't remember, it's such a long time ago."

But he denied being tipped off by his father, Clifford, a well-known criminal now serving eight years for drugs and firearm offences.

The hearing continues today.



Police and other officials try to restrain protesters as they waited outside the building in Elephant and Castle where the inquiry is taking place Photomedia Service

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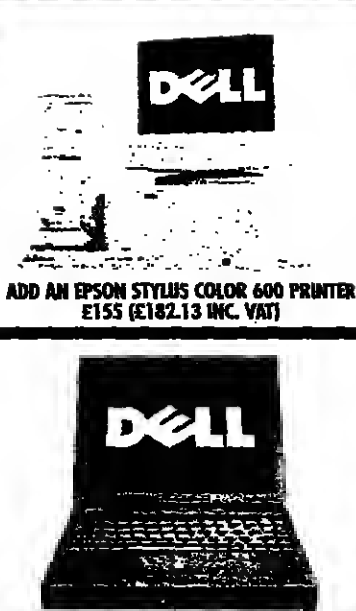
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هكذا من الأصل

Tear gas fired as scuffles broke out

THE LONG-AWAITED appearance at the public inquiry of the five youths suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence was marked by violent scenes inside and out yesterday, as police sprayed tear gas at people trying to enter the building and radical black activists invaded the chamber, forcing the hearing to be adjourned for nearly four hours.

Forty-five minutes into the evidence of the first witness, Jamie Acourt, 30 members of the Nation of Islam stormed into the room, wearing the distinctive uniform of dark suits and sunglasses. As they shouted protests about the limited number of seats for the public, scuffles broke out with police and a sergeant was punched in the chin. One of the men lunged unsuccessfully at Mr Acourt as police hustled him from the witness box and out of the chamber.

Earlier, as Mr Acourt, 22, was denying that he had ever been a racist or carried knives, police fired a CS gas canister at a group of Nation of Islam members who they said had assaulted a chief inspector after breaking through a security cordon. The activists said police provoked the confrontation outside Hannibal House, the government office block in Elephant and Castle, south London, where the hearings are being held.

These extraordinary events were matched by the quieter drama of the appearance of three of the youths who are suspected of slaying Stephen Lawrence to death in an unprovoked and racist attack five years ago. The black teenagers' parents, Neville and Doreen, sat only yards away as Mr Acourt, followed by his brother Neil, 22, and David Norris, 21, gave evidence.

It was the first time that any of the five, who are chief suspects in the murder, had been forced to answer questions in public, and their contributions were less than illuminating. Jamie Acourt, truculent, gave short, clipped answers. Neil Acourt, cocky and combative, threw questions back at the lawyers. David Norris, the most subdued of the three, denied nearly everything put to him.

With questions about their guilt or innocence already ruled out, most of the interrogations revolved around the contents of a videotape shot by

BY KATHY MARKS AND KIM SENGUPTA

a police surveillance camera planted in the flat of another suspect, Gary Dobson, 22. The tape showed the youths brandishing knives, stabbing them into furniture and mouthing violent racist abuse.

There were gasps of outrage in the packed public gallery when Neil Acourt told Edmund Lawson, QC, counsel for the inquiry, that he carried knives for self-defence, particularly "in areas where there are more black people than white".

Mr Acourt complained that he had been "persecuted" over Stephen's murder, adding: "My life has been under threat. People have



Sir William Macpherson: Gave perjury warning

been saying all sorts of things about me. I have received dozens of threatening calls."

Asked about a passage in the video where he said he believed that "every nigger should be chopped up and they should be left with nothing but fucking stumps", Mr Acourt attributed his remark to "stupidity and ignorance". He said: "If anyone had been going through what I had been going through... I was angry." His references to "carving people up" were "just a joke", he said.

All of the five youths have at various times in the past been charged with killing Stephen. Neil Acourt, Mr Dobson and Mr Knight were formally cleared by a jury in 1996 after key identification evidence was ruled inadmissible. The

case against the other two was dropped at committal stage.

Mr Norris, whose mother, Theresa, sat watching him give evidence, was also asked what lay behind his foul-mouthed racist remarks on the video. "I was very angry at what's been happening to me over the past five years," he said. Mr Lawson rejoined: "Stephen Lawrence was murdered. What do you think of that?" "Appalling," replied Norris, as the Lawrences gazed across the room at him.

Michael Mansfield, QC, counsel for the family, asked Neil Acourt about his contact with David Norris's father, Clifford, a professional criminal who has been alleged to have had corrupt links with detectives on the Lawrence murder squad. Mr Acourt, who admitted visiting him twice in prison, where he is serving eight years for drugs and firearms offences, said it was "nonsense" to suggest that Clifford had influenced the case.

From the moment that they strode into Hannibal House yesterday morning, to cries of "racist scum" from the crowds outside, the five showed little but contempt for the public inquiry. Sir William Macpherson, chairman of the tribunal, interrupted Jamie Acourt's evidence to remind him that he could be prosecuted for perjury if he lied in the witness box. As the group of youths left the building at the end of the day, they spat at the chanting anti-racist demonstrators.

The disruption in the morning was sparked by the fact that the 150 seats in the public gallery were hugely oversubscribed. Clashes between police and the Nation of Islam erupted as frustration mounted among the hundreds of spectators who failed to get inside.

Inside the chamber, it fell to a composed Mrs Lawrence to appeal for calm. Grabbing a microphone from the desk of one of the lawyers, she told angry members of the public: "The whole idea of having these boys here is to ask them questions about what went on the night of my son's death."

Neville then repeated the plea. "We have waited five years for this day," he said. "I am not going to let anyone spoil it. I don't want anyone coming with their own agendas... remember what our feelings are, not yours."

Radicals who seek racial separation

THE Nation of Islam is a radical black separatist movement which was founded in the United States more than 60 years ago.

Its members, dressed in smart suits, bow ties and dark glasses, believe that they can only achieve "freedom" by completely dissociating black people from white.

The movement was founded in the early 1930s by Fard Muhammad, who preached to the black community of Detroit about Islam, their "pre-slavery religion".

The Nation then expanded under Fard's officer, Elijah Muhammad, and later with Malcolm X as its chief spokesman until he was expelled from the movement for commenting on the killing of President Kennedy.

But it is under the firebrand leadership of the Rev Louis Farrakhan that the Nation of Islam has provoked most criticism.

Mr Farrakhan, to whom the British section defers as leader, has prompted outraged condemnation for his attacks on white people and particularly Jews and homosexuals, as part of his message of self-empowerment and self-help for blacks.

As a result of objections from the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Mr Farrakhan has been banned from entering Britain for the past 13 years, although that is currently under review.

His work was taken up by a handful of black "brothers"

BY LOUISE JURY

who saw him preaching on television in 1986.

They travelled to Chicago to meet him and returned to found the first British Nation of Islam mosque in Brixton, south London.

Among their more controversial recruitment drives was a rally held by their leader, Wayne X, on the Broadwater Farm estate, the scene of some of Britain's worst race riots.

Recently they were among those who brought new fire to



Farrakhan: Outspoken over Jews and whites

Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park with their black separatist message.

In pockets across London, in Goldhawk Road in the west, Brixton to the south, east in Stoke Newington and north in Harlesden and Tottenham, they

can be seen most weeks selling their newspaper.

Despite the controversy and criticism from more orthodox Muslims in Britain, members of the movement have also been involved in constructive social welfare programmes designed to reduce crime and drugs. No-smoking, no-drinking Nation members visit jails and have a good record of transforming inmates into law-abiding citizens.

There is an arch-conservative insistence on family values and they are a visible presence at any black funeral of note.

However, Maurice McLeod, political editor of *The Voice* black newspaper, said the reaction of the black community to the Nation of Islam was mixed.

Despite the popularity of some parts of its message, separation from the white population was viewed as being neither practical nor desirable.

"They do a lot of ground-roots work in the community. They appeal to working-class black people who like to dress smartly and have respect. But I don't think there's thousands of black people joining."

Although they shun the white media, neither do they speak much to the black press either.

Mr McLeod said it was difficult to gauge exactly how many of them there were and what they believed.

They always denied anti-Semitism on the rare occasions they talked to him.



Members of the Nation of Islam, the radical black separatist movement, arriving for the inquiry yesterday

John Voos

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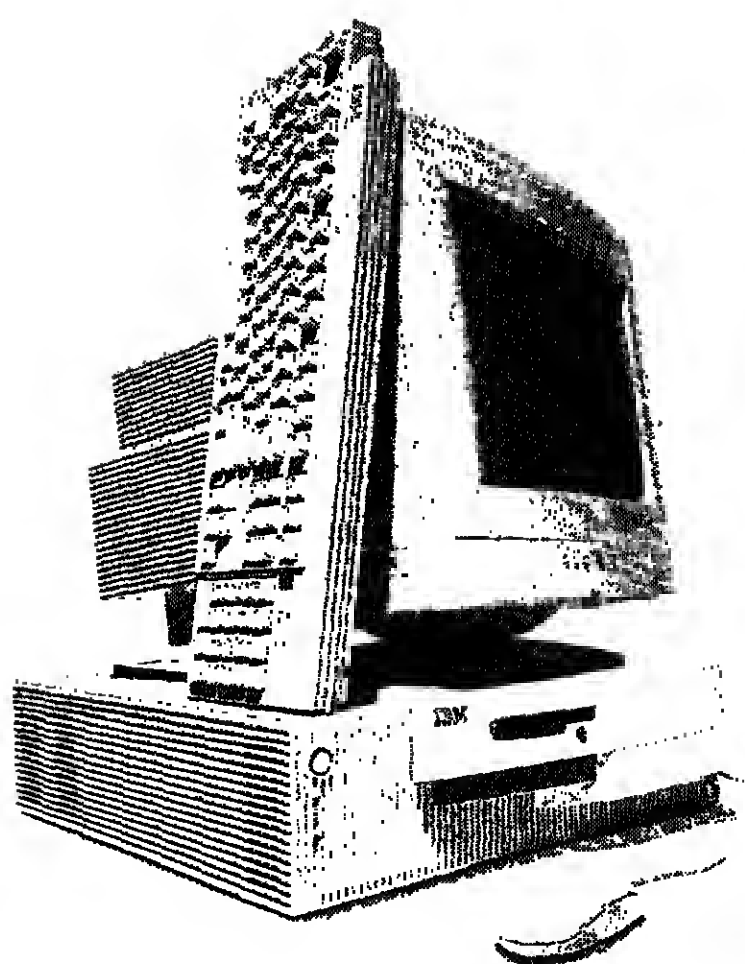
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هكذا من الأصل

Court frees daughter who aided suicide

A "DEVOTED" daughter walked free from court after admitting she helped her elderly mother to commit suicide.

BY LISA SALMON

Gillian Jennison was sentenced to 12 months' probation by a judge at Leeds Crown Court yesterday after she admitted aiding and abetting her 83-year-old mother's suicide by handing her sleeping tablets, watching her take them and later smothering her with a pillow.

Mrs Justice Smith told Jennison, 53, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, it was plain she was a "caring and loving daughter" and only acted as she did after her mother, Annie Wilkes, who was suffering from dementia, pleaded with her to help her die.

The judge told Jennison,

who had denied murder at an earlier hearing: "What you did was done in the honest belief that it was what your mother wanted and that there was no hint of an ulterior motive behind your conduct."

She told mother-of-two Jennison, a lecturer in trade union studies at Bradford University, that it took "considerable courage" to immediately admit to police what she had done.

But she stressed that assisting suicide was a serious offence. "It must not be thought that where a friend or member of the family takes this kind of step it will necessarily be treated in the way in which I intend to treat you."

James Goss QC, for the prosecution, told the court that Jennison was "a caring and loving daughter and enjoyed a close relationship with her mother".

Mrs Wilkes, a widow, had been diagnosed as suffering from dementia in 1996. She had been admitted to hospital and spent several periods in a rest home. A few days before she died she was prescribed sleeping tablets.

On 18 July last year she was taken to her daughter's house in a confused state, saying she felt dreadful and "wishing she was dead". Jennison's brother, Colin, called in and they later drank some wine.

Jennison told police after the death that her mother had been upset, telling her she could not stand the thought of going back into a nursing home and wanted to die.

Mother and daughter drank sherry upstairs and Mrs Wilkes asked for her sleeping pills, which her daughter gave her. Mrs Wilkes took a number of the pills and Jennison took a few herself before taking the empty packet to a skip nearby.

When she returned her mother was still breathing but unconscious, so she put a pillow over her head and held it there for a few minutes until she stopped.

Mr Goss said Jennison later explained that "it was the way her mother asked her and the state she was in that made her honestly feel that not to go along with her wishes would have been very cruel."

"She did not consider the consequences. She just wanted to help her mother."

After her mother's death, Jennison called a doctor. When he arrived she immediately admitted what she had done and the police were called.

Michael Harrison QC, for the defence, stressed this was a "wholly exceptional" case and said there was no ulterior motive on the part of Jennison, who "has no capacity to dissemble or deceive".



Annie Wilkes: Pleaded for help to die



Gillian Jennison (left) was told it took courage to confess to helping her mother take her life

Paul Barker

Masters of hunt deny rearing fox cubs

THE THREE joint masters of the Sinnington Hunt yesterday flatly denied having anything to do with captured fox cubs found in a cage on their land.

Adam Waugh, Andrew Osborne and John Shaw, the leading figures in the North Yorkshire-based hunt, protested their innocence at a hastily convened committee meeting of the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) at the Cavalry and Guards Club in London.

The hunt's terrier man, Lee Cobb, also denied involvement in what animal welfare groups last week claimed was a hunt rearing its own foxes to be hunted - which is strictly against hunting's own rules.

As revealed in *The Independent*, the three-month-old cubs were found by an activist from the League Against Cruel Sports. They were in a muddy cage on a land at a place called Muscoates Whin owned by the Sinnington, one of Britain's oldest hunts, founded in 1680.

The league alerted the RSPCA, which in turn called in the police: both are now carrying out inquiries.

Yesterday, the MFHA accepted the denials of the masters and terrier man at face value, saying it had "found no evidence of any involvement" by them. But it adjourned the meeting while it carried out its own inquiries, which are likely to take about two weeks and will involve more members of the hunt staff being interviewed.

"We're going to look into the allegations in more detail," said MFHA director Alastair Jack-

son. "We will be asking the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA to submit evidence to us. We are taking this very seriously."

The MFHA said in a statement after the meeting: "Fox-hunting as a sport is the hunting of the fox in his wild and natural state with a pack of hounds."

"The capturing and rearing of foxes for hunting is completely unacceptable and the MFHA is determined to find out how these foxes were captured and placed in a cage."

Besides the risk of prosecution, any member of the Sinnington found to have been involved with the cubs would face dismissal or enforced resignation from the hunt.

Hunting sources yesterday were comparing the Sinnington case with that of the Quorn, perhaps Britain's most celebrated hunt, which in 1991 was severely censured by the MFHA, and its masters required to resign, after a fox was dug from its earth and released to the hounds instead of being shot.

The hunting establishment is more than ever conscious of its image after the large parliamentary vote against hunting last year on the Private Member's Bill sponsored by the Labour MP Michael Foster.

The Bill comes before the House of Commons on Friday for its third reading but is certain to fail to become law because of lack of parliamentary time.

British cafe chain buys French

AFTER SERVING steak and fries for more than 20 years, Chez Gerard has finally added a new dish to its menu: Le takeover.

Yesterday, the London French food chain announced it was buying Richoux, a chain of Gallic-style cafes from its owners, the Da Costa family, for £7.25m.

The acquisition signals the desire by Chez Gerard's (British) owners to enter the middle market for French food, which at present is dominated by the Café Rouge and the Dome chain, owned by Whitbread.

Chez Gerard chairman and founder Neville Abraham said: "Richoux takes us quickly into

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

the £5-15 a head market and is less dependent on highly-skilled staff," helping the company to keep down costs.

It would also help Chez Gerard to weather the effects of any economic downturn, which, traditionally pushes people away from expensive restaurants towards cheaper alternatives. Richoux had sales of £5.97m and a pretax profit of £308,000 last year.

Chez Gerard said it planned to open at least four new Richoux restaurants over the next two years to capitalise on the current trend for cheap French food.

But the company will face

stiff competition from other operators such as Cafe Flo and the Pelican Group, owner of Dome and Café Rouge, which was bought by Whitbread for £133m in 1996.

The Pelican Group runs 145 restaurants throughout the country and plans to open a further 19 in 1998-99. It employs more than 3,500 people.

Chez Gerard is a much smaller concern and has so far targeted a richer audience. It owns six restaurants of the same name in central London, which specialise in steak, chips and vintage French wine. The company also runs two fish eateries in London, called Livebait.

Founded by Mr Abraham, a former wine merchant, and

Lawrence Isaacson, a marketing specialist, in 1990 through the purchase of three French restaurants in London, Chez Gerard has grown in less than 10 years in a £20m a year public company quoted in the London stockmarket. It now cooks more than 250,000 steaks a year for more than a million customers.

The founders expanded the company gradually through a careful selection of prime London sites and have always ruled out an expansion to other parts of the country. Mr Abraham said the recipe for Chez Gerard success was simple. "Our customers can get excellent steak and fries and a bloody good bottle of French wine."

Gene link fear in ovarian cancer

WOMEN WITH genes predisposing them to breast cancer are also ten times more likely to get ovarian cancer, says a study.

Myriad Genetics, the US firm which owns the patents for tests for the "breast cancer genes" BRCA1 and BRCA2, say the results from their survey of 238 women provide "clear guidelines to help doctors identify patients who should be evaluated for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer".

British experts have suggested Myriad's numbers may be exaggerated. The company charges about £400 for each BRCA1 test, and would benefit hugely from widespread testing in the US and UK.

"This is a research area, not one for clinical medicine

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

yet," said Professor Gordon McVie, director of the Cancer Research Campaign (CRC).

Myriad suggest "all women with breast cancer under age 50, and any woman with a history of breast or ovarian cancer in a close relative, should be tested". In the UK alone that would involve thousands of tests. An estimated 125,000 women in Britain have either the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene.

"We would recommend women who are concerned about the possibility that they are carrying either gene to get their doctor to recommend them for testing at a regional genetic testing centre," said Professor McVie.

JONATHAN FENBY

The US and China have decided to build a relationship that can be a cornerstone of international relations for the 21st century

— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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IN BRIEF

Life sentences for hammer killings

A MAN who bludgeoned his grandparents and uncle to death with a claw hammer was yesterday given three life sentences.

Rajesh Dass, 24, from Handsworth, Birmingham, was convicted of the murders in April, but the judge adjourned sentencing after the defendant threw himself from a prison balcony, suffering serious head injuries. Dass had denied murder, but admitted the killings on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Damages after death of mother

A CHILD whose mother died when she was 12 days old was yesterday awarded £165,000 agreed High Court damages. Brittany Stilwell, two, has been brought up by her grandmother since her 24-year-old mother, Caroline, suffered a pulmonary embolism. The mother complained of pain in her leg and was referred to hospital. She was discharged but collapsed and died at Bromley hospital, south-east London.

The damages were awarded by consent against Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust, which admitted liability.

Protection for rare birds' habitats

THE HABITATS of three of Britain's rare birds are to be given added protection. The 1,100 hectares of east Devon heaths, which harbour nightjars and Dartford warblers, are to be designated a Special Protection Area (SPA), while the river Crouch and Broadlands SPAs, in East Anglia, will be extended. The Crouch marshes support a wintering population of the dark-bellied form of Brent geese. The Broadlands SPA is home to some of Britain's greatest rarities.

Lottery prizes of £223m unclaimed

JUST OVER £223m of National Lottery prize money has been left unclaimed, the Government disclosed last night. Junior Culture minister Tony Banks said in a Commons written reply that the largest single unclaimed prize was just over £2m. After 180 days, prizes still unclaimed are paid to the Lottery Fund's good causes.

Mild Mr Smith dispenses tourist information to the masses

THE ROUSE of Commons resembled a series of seaside tourist offices yesterday as a succession of MPs pleaded the case for their local resorts during questions to Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Mr Smith looks like the sort of worthy, middle-aged clerk you would meet at the railway station information office as you queue for details of the various delights of some particularly naff seaside town which has seen better days.

At the head of the queue for tourist information yesterday, about the latest taxpayers' cash availability, we had Bob Blizzard (Lab, Waveney) who represents

Lowestoft. He wanted European financial directions to some marina which he believes will transform this cold and most easterly seaside town into a rival to Cannes, Nice or Antibes. He was followed up by Sir Teddy Taylor (Con Rochford and Southend East) who suggested that if only money were thrown at Southend we would all go there for our summer holidays.

Not to be outdone, Ronnie Fearn (Lib Dem Southport) said that if the pier at Southport could be repaired he would all flock there instead but he was contradicted by Gordon Marsden (Lab Blackpool South) who said that Labour's New Deal would transform Blackpool.

But the Labour Party itself is making a swan song appearance at Blackpool this year, as it seeks out more hip and cool alternatives for its conference. Give it a couple of years and Peter Mandelson will have all the delegates flying over to some exotic location in one of his favourite "cool" Spanish hotspots.

This was perhaps the last question time at which Mr Mandelson had to appear in his role as Minister without Portfolio. In the forthcoming reshuffle he will probably be given dozens of portfolios which will give him the chance to rampage over every corner of government in Whitehall.

For the time being, however, Mr

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

Mandelson had to give his monthly account of how his dome is coming on. It is all going great guns and

apparently companies are pouring money into it. But, apart from the money, he still does not know what to put in it, so he has got his faithful focus groups and opinion pollsters to tell him what we all want. Apparently there is something he calls a Spirit Level which is to be the dome's centrepiece.

Let us hope that, if they have difficulty selling tickets for the dome, Mr Blair has the sense to retain the excellent services of Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport.

Mr Banks was being upbraided by Michael Fabricant (Con Lichfield) for the appalling arrangements of distributing World Cup tickets to England supporters. Mr

Banks replied, somewhat testily, "I'm not Toot the Toot", adding that he had no tickets at his disposal and the problem was all the fault of football's governing body, Fifa.

Mr Banks does not gift-wrap his view on life, much to his credit, and sympathised with Helen Jones (Lab Warrington North) when she complained that not enough lottery money had gone to her constituency. "It's a bummer," he told her apologetically.

The real bummer of the afternoon turned out to be the non-event of an Opposition debate on the economy - thanks to the decision by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give priority to the

meeting of the European Monetary Affairs Committee, which was being held at the same time in Brussels. "My Right Hon. Friend is representing Britain in Europe," Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, told an indignant Opposition.

No one was more indignant at this than Sir Peter Tapsell (Con Louth and Horncastle) who said the Chancellor was ignoring the sovereignty of the House of Commons and that "democracy in this country is at risk".

Overstated, maybe, but Sir Peter aptly summed up the Government's attitude towards Parliament.



Cherie Blair plays hopscotch at the launch of National Kids' Clubs Week at Gospel Oak After School Club in London

Emma Boom

Left-wing rejects fight Labour 'cull'

AS MANY as 20 hopefuls who were rejected by Labour as candidates for the new Scottish Parliament are to appeal against the decision, an MP said last night.

Dennis Canavan, one of two MPs who are fighting the decision, said a "partial ideological cull" had taken place, with left-wingers and troublemakers excluded from the list.

Left wing Labour MPs with English constituencies said last night that they feared a cull of troublemakers south of the border.

"We are likely to be asked whether we have ever said anything to embarrass a minister. It was the McCarthyite question that was put to Dennis Canavan. At least he had the guts to say it was his duty to ask awkward and embarrassing questions," said one prominent left-winger.

"The whips are claiming we have a bad voting record. Then they will get us deselected," said the MP. The MPs fear that they will be replaced with Blairite members, who "came into the Commons in 1997 in marginal seats. Already a handful are reporting interest in their seats by neighbouring colleagues."

The move against Mr Canavan came after whips at Westminster supplied a list of 11 occasions when he abstained or voted against the Government since May 1997, and at his interview he was asked if he had ever posed any awkward or embarrassing questions in the House.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

BY FRANK ABRAMS AND COLIN BROWN

Mr Canavan, the MP for Falkirk West, has appealed against the decision of the Glasgow Pollock. The number of appeals before yesterday's deadline was likely to rise to around 20, he said.

While Mr Canavan and Mr Davidson were rejected, other left-wingers including John McAllion, the MP for Dundee East, were accepted. Donald Dewar's special adviser, Murray Elder, was rejected along with Mark Lazarowicz, a former Edinburgh council leader, and Esther Robertson, former co-ordinator of the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

Mr Canavan's letter of appeal said the chair of the selections board, Rosemary McKenna, MP for Cumberland and Kilsyth, had an interest in the process because her daughter was a successful applicant. As Mr Canavan's constituency was next to Mrs McKenna's, Suzanne McLeod might be expected to seek selection for Falkirk West if she failed to win a seat in Cumberland and Kilsyth, he said.

"Mrs McKenna should not have been even a member of the selections board," he said. He also claimed other potential nominees were coached before his interview, while he was not offered any training. Leaked media reports had predicted that he was to fail in his bid before the selection board

made its decision, he added. Even before his interview, senior party figures were trying to discredit him. Mr Canavan's interview was chaired by Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee West, with whom "I do not see eye to eye, and that is an understatement".

Scottish Labour released a "person specification" drawn up for the ideal candidate, which said he or she must show creative skill, strategic thinking, advocacy and interpersonal skills, leadership, teamwork, communication and the ability to campaign effectively.

Candidates must also have useful experience within and outside the Labour Party, must be committed to and knowledgeable about the Scottish Parliament and to equal opportunities.

Of 534 applicants, 167 were allowed to go forward after the interview process. They must now apply to constituencies, which are "paired" and must choose a man and a woman between them to achieve a gender balance.

Party officials suggested that the appellants were happy to vote the selection process through at the Scottish Labour conference this year, and had only complained about it after they were rejected.

Alex Rowley, the Scottish Labour Party's new General Secretary, said: "The party approved the process for selecting the candidates for the Scottish Parliament and believe it was a fair process."

Tories say families are £1,000 worse off from rises in tax

THE GOVERNMENT has broken its word not to raise taxes, and the average family is now £1,000 a year worse off, the Tories claimed last night.

There have been 17 tax rises and six interest rate increases since the election, Francis Maude, the new Tory Treasury spokesman, told the Commons.

Gordon Brown's absence from the debate was also attacked as "lamentable". Mr Maude faced Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, rather than the Chancellor in yesterday's Opposition debate.

Mr Brown had to attend a meeting with the monetary af-

ECONOMY

BY SAM COATES

fairs committee of the European Parliament.

Mr Darling denied accusations that Labour has broken its pledges on taxation. "We have made sure that where we have been able to increase taxes

more, in the working families tax credit, for example, we are directing help where it is needed to those families on low incomes and those families which we want to help make work pay."

Mr Maude claimed the

Prime Minister had promised unequivocally before the election that Labour had no plans to increase taxation at all.

Opening his first full-scale debate against the Government since his appointment, Mr Maude also attacked the Government's economic policy, which he claimed was in disarray after it had been unable to fulfil its pre-election promises.

The Government has been basking in the glow of the golden economic legacy the Tories handed over to them, and took the credit for all that occurred, he said. But he said the trickle

of bad news threatens to turn into a torrent.

Mr Maude highlighted a number of problems with the economy: the Government missed its own inflation target 12 months out of the last 13; the six interest-rate increases have raised the cost of living, putting pressure on earnings; the balance of payments figures are heading into the red; and business failures are up nearly 10 per cent in the last quarter, according to a new survey.

Labour's attempts to end the boom-bust economic cycle had failed, he told the Commons. Mr Darling refused to say

which point of the cycle the British economy is in. "We are putting many measures in place that will maintain long-term stability," he said.

Liberal Democrat spokesman Malcolm Bruce attacked both the Tory and Labour handling of the economy. "Two people are responsible for the economy's current predicament: the last Chancellor of the Exchequer, who kept interest rates artificially low before the election, and the current Chancellor of the Exchequer, who piled taxes onto hard pressed business rather than high spending consumers."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Gulf War illness to be reviewed

THE GOVERNMENT will fund an independent review of worldwide published research relating to Gulf veterans' illnesses.

The review will be carried out by a team led by Professor Glyn Lewis at the University of Wales and will cost £75,000. Dr Andrew Reed, defence minister, told Michael Hancock (Lib Dem, Portsmouth South.)

Travel costs rise

THE COST of overseas travel by Scottish Office ministers has risen by more than £28,000 in the past three years, Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, said. Costs for ministers' trips abroad in 1997-98 totalled £95,260.

£2bn finance deals

PRIVATE FINANCE Initiative contracts signed since May 1997 are worth a total of £2.085bn, Geoffrey Robinson, Paymaster General, told Stephen Timms (Lab, East Ham).

Missing winners

JUST OVER £223m of National Lottery prize money has been left unclaimed, the culture minister Tony Banks disclosed in a written answer. He said the largest single unclaimed prize was just over £2m.

Senior MPs launch new attempt to reduce influence of Murdoch

GORDON BROWN may have agreed to address News Corp editors and executives in Idaho next month, but Labour MPs at home will be seeking today to tackle Rupert Murdoch's power base in Britain.

Senior MPs are planning to register their disapproval of Tony Blair's close relationship with Mr Murdoch by threatening to vote against the Government over predatory pricing by his newspaper empire.

Chris Mullin, the Labour chairman of the cross-party Home Affairs Committee, is tabling an amendment to reinstate the ban on predatory pricing in the Competition Bill during its report stage in the Commons. The amendment was introduced in the Lords to prevent Mr Murdoch seeking dominance by predatory pricing following a government defeat led by the Liberal Democrat peer, Lord McNally.

Row looms over broken pledge

CLARE SHORT will face allegations that the Government is breaking its election pledges over Third World aid after figures showed that Britain has cut aid spending by more than 2 per cent.

Spending on aid as a proportion of national wealth fell in real terms by 2.2 per cent between 1996 and 1997. Ms Short's officials at the Department of International Development were braced for the figures from the highly respected OECD, insisting before they were published that they would

POWER OF THE PRESS

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

with the support of Lord Bore, the Labour life peer and former director general of the Office of Fair Trading.

It was removed from the Bill during the committee stage and there is no chance of the Government backing down now. However, the MPs are determined to make a show of their concern about the influence of Mr Murdoch in British politics by pressing ahead with their protest.

Mr Mullin said last night that a front-page article in the Sun last week attacking Tony Blair as the "most dangerous man in Britain" for appearing to soften his stance towards British entry to the European single currency was a "wake up call" to Labour MPs against the influence of Mr Murdoch.

There are suspicions at Westminster, however, that Mr Murdoch did not agree with the personalised tone of the attack on Mr Blair. In a sign of continuing warm relations with the Government, Mr Murdoch last week invited Mr Brown to address the News Corp convention in mid-July in the Sun Valley ski resort in Idaho. It was learnt last night that the invitation to the Chancellor came last Thursday, a day after the Sun attack on Mr Blair.

The Prime Minister today will reassert the Government's policy not to rule out entry into the single currency at the inauguration of the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

Mr Blair addressed the same conference of News Corp executives three years ago in Australia, while leader of the Opposition. The Sun switched allegiance from the Tories to Labour shortly afterwards.

THE HOUSE



Tebbit protests

LORD TEBBIT, the Tory former cabinet minister injured in the IRA's 1984 Brighton bombing and whose wife, Margaret, was paralysed, attacked plans to free paramilitary prisoners. He said, during a Lords debate on the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Bill: "This Bill reeks and stinks of injustice."

Cash concern

THE cross-party Public Accounts Committee expressed concern over the reserves amassed by firm contracted by a government-backed charity to insulate the homes of people on benefits, the disabled and pensioners. Eaga has amassed reserves of £3m.

Today in Parliament

- Commons
- Health Questions
- Ten-minute debate on unsolicited fax messages
- Progress on remaining stages of Finance Bill
- Adjournment debate on future of RAF Northolt
- Lords
- Pesticides Bill, third reading
- School Standards and Framework Bill
- Debate on promotion of the Council of Europe

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Centre-left leaders plot the Third Way's historic path

FIRST IT was Bill Clinton's Democrats, then New Labour got on board. Now the rest of the world's centre-left leaders are clamouring to jump on to the "Third Way" bandwagon.

The Swedes, the Danes, the Dutch, the Italians and the Brazilians are all keen to join a series of seminars on the new route between Socialism and the free market.

Downing Street has dismissed suggestions that the old Socialist

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

International forum could be ditched for a more market-friendly talking shop. But the net is being cast ever wider in a quest for the philosophical future of the new left.

Already, Tony Blair and Clinton have met three times - once in Arizona and twice at Chequers - to talk about how they can prevent the right

from seizing the ideological initiative as they did during the era of Thatcher and Reagan.

The US President has also talked the issue over at a meeting with the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, in May. This month he had a similar talk with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil.

Last night Mr Blair's official spokesman said another Chequers meeting was on the cards. "An awful

lot of the European left-of-centre leaders want to get involved in this. You will see it developing," he said.

"Just as in this country the right is moving right and the left is taking over the centre, that's happening around Europe."

European leaders are now much more receptive to American ideas than they were a few years ago, he suggested. At a recent meeting in Cardiff they discussed both

economic reform and the flexibility of labour markets.

Plans for the new informal grouping, which would stand between the Socialist International and the right-wing International Democrat Union, are reported to have been discussed at a number of meetings between world leaders.

According to a report in the *International Herald Tribune*, the new movement could be launched

later this year if the centre-left candidate in September's German elections, Gerhard Schröder, emerges as victor.

Supporters of the Socialist International said last night that Labour would never persuade its conference to disaffiliate formally from it. The PM's spokesman said that was not on the agenda.

However, the Socialist International could look increasingly old-hat

as centre-left leaders choose to do their talking elsewhere.

The venerable forum dates back to 1889 and has its roots in Marxist philosophy. In Mr Blair's own words from 1994, it stands for "a world offering everyone the opportunity to lead a meaningful, emancipated life... in which human rights are guaranteed within the framework of a society based on solidarity." A bit like the Third Way, really.

New Deal for older jobless is launched

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to extend its controversial US-style "workfare" scheme to older unemployed workers, it emerged yesterday.

While so far only 18- to 25-year-olds faced cuts in benefit for refusing options under the New Deal programme, the big stick will now be wielded over some of jobless people over 26.

In pilot schemes to start in the autumn, those over 26 will face cuts in state payments if they refuse work placements, or training and education. In some areas it will affect those who have been out of work for 12 months or more, in others people who have been unemployed for 18 months or longer.

This is the first indication that ministers are prepared to extend the principle of compulsion beyond the "core" target of 18- to 25-year-olds who have been out of work for more than a year.

Yesterday the Government expanded the New Deal scheme nationally to include those over 25 who have been out of work for two years or more. However, ministers fought shy of extending full compulsion to this category. While these longer-term jobless workers will be forced to turn up for their New Deal interviews they will not be forced to take up any of the options.

Those aged between 18 and 25 face cuts of up to 40 per cent if they refuse one of four options: a subsidised job, education and training, work on the Government's environment task-force or a job with a voluntary agency.

Officials at the Department for Education and Employment

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

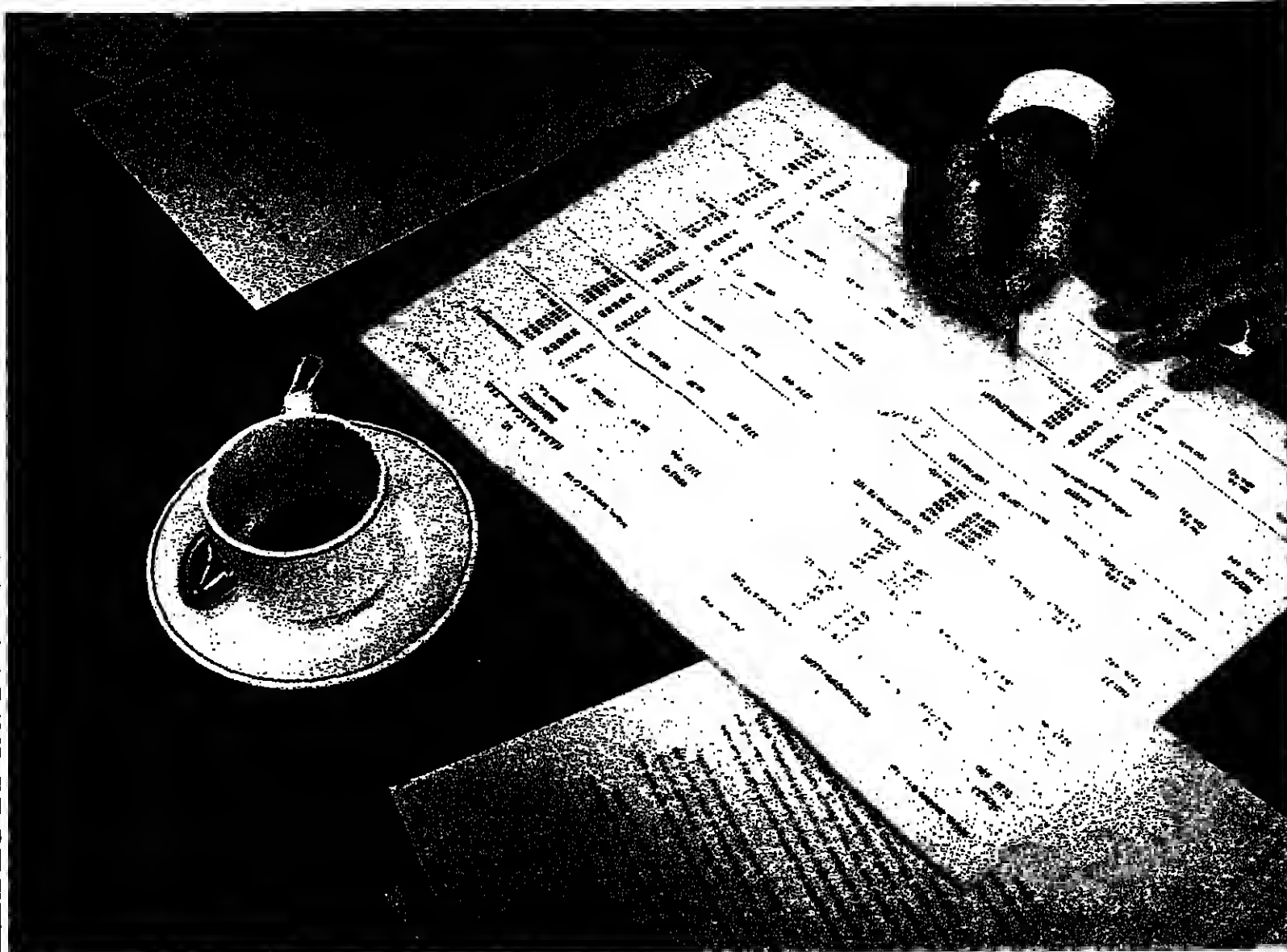
indicated yesterday that older long-term jobless people might find it more difficult to take jobs in new industries. However, the Government is determined to see how far it can extend the principle of compulsion.

Meanwhile, ministers announced that several retailers and a power company have decided to back the extension of New Deal. Among those signing up to the initiative are Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, B&Q and the National Grid. They said they would all participate in the scheme which aims to help 200,000 older long-term unemployed in the next year. The over-25s who have been out of work for longer than two years will be offered advice, help in finding a job, training and grants.

About £479m from the windfall tax has been allocated for the extension to the scheme, which was officially launched yesterday.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, stressed the importance of encouraging the long-term unemployed to get back to work. "We are talking about a very substantial investment in ensuring that people have jobs, that they contribute to a labour market that remains buoyant and therefore we hold down inflation while maintaining stable growth," he told BBC radio 4.

David Willetts, Tory spokesman on education and employment, cast doubt on Labour's proposed solution, saying: "Our fear is that here the focus is entirely on job subsidies."



Roy Tromp, of Overseas Farmers Group, tea producers in Zimbabwe, conducting business with a cup of coffee at his side at the last London tea auction held at the London Chamber of Commerce yesterday, ending a 319-year tradition. Dealers now trade on the Internet. Brian Harris

Fresh hope for spinal injury victims

RATS WHOSE spinal cords were cut have regained the ability to use their back legs in experiments that could one day lead to revolutionary treatments for paraplegic humans.

The work carried out by Professor Michael Schwartz, at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, demonstrated that spinal nerves, which usually do not regenerate after serious injury, can be encouraged to heal by using cells from the immune system that normally promote healing in other parts of the body.

Professor Schwartz said yesterday that the next step would be to try similar work on peo-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

ple who have suffered severe spinal injury that has left them paraplegic. However, she would not put a time-scale on it, or say when clinical trials might begin. Her team has taken 15 years, including three years of experimentation, to reach this stage with rats, she said.

Even so, the results will give hope to paraplegic people including the actor Christopher Reeve, who broke his neck in a horse-riding accident in May 1995. He has vowed to walk again, despite being left para-

plegic by the accident. In recent months he has regained some feeling in one leg and can shrug his shoulders and breathe unaided for up to two hours.

Professor Schwartz's work builds on the observation that in lower animals, such as goldfish, the spinal nerves can regenerate themselves, because cells from the immune system called "macrophages" - which react to damage to the body - are able to reach the injured cells and promote regrowth. In higher mammals, including rats and humans, the macrophages are excluded from the central nervous system (CNS). Some

scientists have suggested this is because changes to the CNS constitutes memory, and macrophages would otherwise keep changing the cells back to their original state - wiping out our consciousness.

In the experiments, reported in the journal *Nature Medicine*, 22 adult rats had their spinal cords severed at the chest. Macrophages which had been activated by separate damage to peripheral nerves were then implanted at the point where the spine was cut. After 20 weeks most of the treated rats were able to move their hind legs and some could

put weight on them, though their co-ordination was limited. A "control" group of rats, which had also had their spines severed but received no treatment, showed no improvement.

Yesterday Professor Schwartz said: "The advantage of this method is that it uses the patient's own cells, rather than injecting a foreign body in. It is a very simple manipulation which allows the cells to repair themselves."

Before trying the same technique on humans her team will have to assess how soon after the spinal damage the treatment must be given.

The pledge to cut class sizes using money from phasing out the assisted places scheme is one of the Government's main commitments.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said Mr Willetts could not make up his mind whether he was for lower class sizes or against them. "From a party which presided over 10 years of rising class sizes, this is no surprise."

"Labour will deliver its class-size pledge and we will do so in a way which benefits pupils and parents, respecting parental preferences and underpinning our drive for higher standards in the three Rs."

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Pupils dress up as members of the nobility to get a taste of life in Victorian high society during a visit to Petworth House in West Sussex. *Rui Xavier*

Scientists see serious side to UFO sightings

THERE IS "compelling physical evidence" that sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) have some basis in reality, an independent group of scientists has concluded - though they reckon alien spacecraft are probably not involved.

The finding was welcomed by UFO groups, despite the sceptical tone of the scientists, who hinted that natural phenomena are probably at the root of many reports.

"The fact that a number of scientists from different countries and credible backgrounds have been prepared to look seriously at the data is amazing. It wouldn't have happened 10 years ago," said Graham Bird-sall, editor of *UFO magazine*, a British publication with a worldwide circulation of 140,000.

A nine-member panel led by a physicist from the august Stanford University in California declared yesterday that some of the thousands of UFO sightings reported over the past decades merit further study.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

But Peter Sturrock, the panel's director, said: "If there is an interest in trying to get serious answers to the UFO problem, it would be sensible for scientists to focus on the physical evidence as opposed to witness testimony."

Phenomena such as "ball lightning" are believed by many scientists to be at the heart of many of the more credible sightings of UFOs. More recently, neuroscientists have found a means of recreating the sensations described by people claiming to have been abducted by aliens - such as a memory of grey visitors and a feeling of paralysis on waking up.

But the scientists added that some of the physical evidence remained unexplained and researchers might learn something new in evaluating purported UFO sightings.

The panel's report is the first independent review of UFO phenomena since 1966,

when the US Air Force commissioned Colorado University to conduct a scientific study of UFOs headed by Dr Edward Condon.

Sturrock's panel examined evidence including photographs of purported UFOs, radar data and reports of soil damage near supposed UFO landing sites. Some of the reports could have been explained by rare natural phenomena such as electrical activity above thunderstorms. Other reports were produced by secret military activities, the report concluded.

The study was the brainchild of Laurence Rockefeller, Henry Diamond and Sturrock, who felt the field of UFO study "is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion". The panel was financed by the LSR Fund, chaired by Rockefeller.

Comprised of astronomers, physicists and experts in other scientific disciplines, the panel met last year in New York to discuss the data and in San Francisco to finalise the report.

Doctor to challenge medical hierarchy

A CONSULTANT anaesthetist from America who has moved to Britain is to challenge the "closed shop" run by the medical royal colleges which have refused him consultant status in the UK.

Dr Richard Kaul, who qualified as a doctor in Britain before moving to work in the US, alleges that the system for admitting doctors from overseas to the register of specialists who can apply to be consultants is shrouded in secrecy and operates unfairly and arbitrarily.

He is appealing against a decision of the Specialist Training Authority, which operates on behalf of the royal colleges, to refuse him consultant status. He returned to the UK in 1995 and is now working as a locum anaesthetist - below consultant level - in London.

Dr Kaul's solicitor, Oliver Mays, of the medical lawyers Le Brasseur J Tickle, said Dr Kaul wanted to open up the UK system for approving foreign doctors for consultant posts to public view.

Mr Mays said: "He wants to know what criteria are being used and what comparisons made. If it is fair and reasonable that's fine but let us see what is being done."

The appeal is the first to be held in public and is expected

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

to cost Dr Kaul £10,000 to £15,000. He plans to fly witnesses over from the United States to attest to the quality of his postgraduate training, which included time spent working in the south Bronx area of New York where patients with gunshot wounds were a frequent occurrence, and is gathering records to compare with the training histories of UK-trained consultants.

The Specialist Training Authority was set up in 1996 to guarantee patient safety by ensuring that all doctors admitted to the specialist register, from which consultants are appointed, were properly trained.

The rules specify that a UK-trained doctor must have spent at least six years in an accredited specialist training post and have passed the relevant college exams. Doctors from overseas have to show that their training matches this standard.

It is understood that the authority argued that Dr Kaul's training in the US was shorter at four years instead of six and not equivalent in content to that received by an anaesthetist in Britain.

Lesley Hawksworth, chief executive of the authority, said 2,000 doctors had applied to join the register since 1996, most from the UK. Among those who had been turned down, four had made appeals but Dr Kaul was the first to request a public hearing.

The case is expected to be held in October, and will be heard by a panel of two consultants and the director of appeals, who is a retired circuit judge.

Ms Hawksworth said: "To succeed, a doctor has to convince the authority that their training and qualifications are equivalent to those of a UK-trained doctor."



Richard Kaul: Challenge to medical authorities

TERENCE BLACKER

'From Barbara Windsor to Ginger Spice, the traditional English pin-up has been selected for her very lack of sexiness'

THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

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DRIVEN BY PASSION **FIAT**

Billie-Jo evidence 'rules out stranger'

THE "COMPLEX" relationship between Sion Jenkins and his foster daughter Billie-Jo Jenkins lies at the heart of his motive for murdering her, a court was told yesterday.

Camden Pratt QC, for the prosecution, suggested that the relationship might not be easily explicable. "But the roots of this crime lie in that complex relationship."

Mr Jenkins, 40, a deputy headmaster, denies murdering Billie-Jo as she was painting the patio windows of the family house in Hastings, East Sussex, last year.

Making his closing comments on the 17th day of the trial, Mr Pratt dismissed the likelihood of the killing being the work of a stranger.

"To suggest a motiveless passer-by arriving and suddenly deciding to commit a crime doesn't allow for common sense to prevail in this case," he said.

Mr Pratt told the eight men and four women jurors that they had to focus on the time between 3.13pm and 3.25pm of Saturday, 15 February, when Billie-Jo was murdered.

The prosecution has alleged that Mr Jenkins bludgeoned the teenager with an 18-inch spike cleared out of the utility room earlier in the day. It was alleged that he then went on a pointless shopping trip with his two elder natural daughters, during which he bought nothing, to distance himself from the crime.

Mr Pratt went on: "Or did an unnamed, unknown, unseen person, a stranger for no apparent reason, approach the patio? Did they decide to see what weapon might be about and, without any reason, attack Billie-Jo on the patio, and having murdered her, leave without a trace at all of ever having been there?"

BY LOUISE JURY

Billie-Jo was a girl of nearly 14 with a disturbed childhood which had led to her being fostered. She was described by Mr Jenkins as being impatient and she had problems. Mr Pratt said: "She clearly sought attention from the defendant."

But he said: "We are not talking about a gangster with lots of enemies. We are not talking about an individual with a shady private life. We are talking about a young adolescent girl."

Mr Pratt raised inconsistencies in Mr Jenkins's account of what he did after the shopping trip when Billie-Jo's body was discovered by his natural daughter, Lottie, then 10.

Mr Jenkins has admitted to Lewes Crown Court that he lied to emergency services staff about putting Billie-Jo in the recovery position and checking for her pulse.

He spent much of the time before the ambulance arrived with Lottie and her eldest sister, Annie, then 12, outside the room where his foster daughter's body lay.

"Why was [the recovery position] not done? So shocked he couldn't help, or not done because he knew that she was dead? Not done because his interest was not in keeping her alive? There is a limit to how far shock explains his conduct."

Mr Jenkins also denied seeing the blood-covered spike which lay next to the body.

Mr Pratt asked: "Are we dealing with a man who is now either deliberately or through some mechanism of denial not prepared not only to face the sight of the body, but not even the sight of the weapon that the Crown say he must have used to kill her?"

The trial continues.



New houses near Brighton. West Sussex County Council has been told 50,700 new homes must be built in the county by 2011.

Andrew Hasson

Fight to block Prescott's green belt plan

A COUNTY COUNCIL with more than half its land designated as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty went to the High Court yesterday to stop John Prescott forcing it to build more new houses than it says it can cope with.

West Sussex, a largely rural county dominated by the South Downs and dotted with historic towns such as Chichester and Arundel, is seeking to overturn a decision by the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment that it must build an extra 12,800 houses over the period 1994 to 2011.

Mr Prescott told the county last December that its proposed figure of 37,900 new houses was insufficient, and that it must be increased to 50,700.

The council fears that most

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

of the extra housing would have to be built on green-field sites and would greatly damage the countryside. "We're not an industrial county and we simply don't have that many brown-field sites," said a county council spokeswoman.

Mr Prescott ordered West Sussex to increase its figure despite the fact that the independent panel which examined the county's structure plan agreed with it, and that West Sussex's own total was based on a pioneering environmental capacity study, which said that further housing growth would be very detrimental.

"We carried out the study to ensure that the beauty of West Sussex countryside was preserved for generations to



John Gummer (right) has opposed Mr Prescott's move

come," said Harold Hall, chairman of the county council's strategic planning committee. "This has now been threatened by the extra 12,800 homes



that we have been told to find sites for.

"This is a major national issue which transcends party politics and the whole country

will be waiting to see whether our application succeeds."

Ian Elliott, the county council chairman, said: "The county council has been united on this issue and thousands of people have signed petitions and have written letters objecting to John Prescott's direction."

Mr Prescott and his officials made their decision more than two months before the Government's February U-turn over its attitude to new housing in the countryside - largely under pressure from the campaigners who organised the countryside march in London - when it accepted the case for building 60 per cent of new homes on brown-field sites.

Tim Yeo, the Conservative environment spokesman, said: "If the change of policy which Labour announced in February

on new homes in the countryside has any meaning at all, Mr Prescott should give way 100 per cent to the county council on this issue."

Yesterday the county sought judicial review of Mr Prescott's decision on the grounds that he was failing to comply with planning guidance. The case, which continues today, is being heard by Mr Justice Scott Baker.

Simon Festing, housing campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said: "The issue is, is it right for Mr Prescott to sit in his office in London and rule down to the last hundred, exactly how many houses every county has to build?"

Mr Prescott's predecessor, John Gummer, the former Tory Secretary of State for the Environment, has submitted an affidavit supporting the stance of West Sussex.

Phone heart-check service to save lives

PATIENTS WORRIED they have heart problems can now send their heartbeats over the telephone for an instant check-up.

Europe's first heart tele-monitoring service launched yesterday is expected to help save lives, cut waiting lists at hospitals and make savings for the National Health Service.

It has already attracted 550 GP practices throughout the United Kingdom who have contracted to use it for their patients, and may soon be followed by other telemonitoring services.

The service, run by Lifesign, has the potential to be used by up to 10 million people who report to their doctor with symptoms that could indicate heart problems. By monitoring symptoms as they occur doctors are able to get a quicker and more accurate picture of what is wrong.

Ronnie Royston, chairman of Lifesign, said: "A patient may go to see his GP with any of a whole range of symptoms: palpitations, chest pains, headaches, and so on."

"The doctor is not an expert in cardiology and he makes an appointment for him to see a specialist to have tests and that can take six weeks. Then there is another wait for the test results."

"Where the patient is given

BY ROGER DOBSON

one of our cards, they don't need to be hospitalised for 24 hours to have their ECG monitored, and our service allows the patient to record their symptoms as and when they occur, reducing the number of wasted hospital visits."

The Lifesign service uses a recorder the size and shape of a credit card which contains chip technology and which will record the echogram or ECG from the heart.

When the patient is having symptoms, he presses the card to the chest for 30 seconds, and then puts it under a telephone mouthpiece and dials a free number. Seconds later the ECG appears on a screen in front of a cardiac technician at a call centre in Cardiff.

Based on what they see, the technician will contact the patient's doctor with varying degrees of urgency. There will eventually be about 70 cardiac technicians at the centre.

"We don't diagnose and we are not replacing the doctor," Mr Royston said. "We might say we think it is a good idea they go home and that their doctor will be in touch with them very shortly. Or we might say that we don't see a reason for them going home."

We think it is potentially life saving, and that it will reduce waiting lists and save on beds."

The project launched by the Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, is the biggest venture yet in the expanding area of telemedicine, where telephone wires are used to deliver health care.

Until now it has been used most for small groups of people. There have been projects involving telecare for workers on oil platforms and for scientists in Antarctica where doctors back at base can diagnose patients via camera images.

In some rural areas, patients have been saved trips to hospitals by having dermatological problems diagnosed from camcorder images.

Telemedicine has been slowly growing since the late 1960s, and has been rapidly expanding, particularly in the United States.

In the UK, teleradiology, telepathology, and teleconsulting have also been tried and in Ireland, remote islanders have been taking part in a telepsychiatry project.

It is possible that many other groups of patients could benefit from telemonitoring too, including women with problem pregnancies, and diabetics.

Life for drunken killer of girl, 3

BY PAT CLARKE

A DRUNKEN man who murdered his three-year-old granddaughter by throwing her from a seventh floor balcony was yesterday jailed for life.

Judge Geoffrey Grigson told Anthony Volney: "Yours was an act so callous as to be almost beyond belief. It is certainly beyond all understanding."

Dorian Lovell-Pank QC, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey that Volney, 59, of Kilburn, north-west London, had thrown Sasha Davies over the balcony on 6 August last year in a fit of drunken rage.

"She fell seven floors to the ground. She was terribly badly injured. She never regained consciousness and died three days later in hospital, four days before her fourth birthday."

Volney - who denied murder - had been looking after his granddaughter and took her back to his flat after being asked to leave a local club, where he had caused trouble.

"He was not happy having been asked to leave. He was variously described as drunk, staggering, and was generally thought not to be fit to be looking after a small child," said Mr Lovell-Pank.

A witness said Sasha had been crying that she wanted to go home and her grandfather had been dragging her along the street and swearing at her.

A man living in Volney's block saw the final act. "He heard a child in distress and a man who was swearing a lot. He thought the girl sounded petrified. Every time she said something, the man would swear back and she would scream even more," said Mr Lovell-Pank. "There was one last scream, then he saw the defendant pick up the girl over both hands and drop her over the side of the balcony."

Marine recruits 'assaulted'

A ROYAL MARINE yesterday described a string of assaults allegedly carried out on recruits during a training course.

Marine Kyle Mace told a court martial hearing how he witnessed one recruit being punched in the chest when he had difficulty fitting a light bulb and another being punched when he fell asleep during a lecture.

He also claimed he was kicked in the ribs as he carried out punishment press-ups at the

Marine's Commando Training Centre in Lympstone, Devon.

Two non-commissioned officers - Sergeant David Foggins and Corporal Steve Amphlett - deny ill-treating the recruits during the 30-week Royal Marine training course, considered one of the toughest military training regimes in the world.

A third man, Lieutenant Michael Geldard, denies a charge of failing to report the recruits' complaints.

Marine Mace also told the

hearing how he was kicked in the ribs by Cpl Amphlett after being ordered to perform punishment press-ups.

Sgt Foggins denies four charges of ill-treating recruits and four alternatives of battery. Cpl Amphlett denies one charge of ill-treating recruits and an alternative charge of battery while Lt Geldard denies a charge of conduct to the prejudice of good order or military discipline.

The case continues.

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French strike disrupts euro coin production

PRODUCTION OF new euro coins has been disrupted by a strike at the French national mint over staffing levels.

Although the French government insists that the "teething problems" have been solved, there was no sign of the majority of the 400 employees returning to work at the factory at Pessac, near Bordeaux, yesterday.

The unions complain that the French government, anxious to seal a march on its European Union partners, began work on the new euro coins before technical problems had been ironed out.

They also say that manning levels are insufficient to meet the ambitious production targets.

The early start in making the coins, which are not due to appear in European pockets for another three and a half years, as already proved unfortunate in another respect.

The European Commission halted the production of the 0-cent coin two weeks ago,

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

after pressure-groups for the blind complained that they could not be readily distinguished by touch.

The design will have to be reconsidered and the 9 million coins already minted at Pessac melted down.

Michel Mano, a local official of the CGT trades union federation, said that there had been many technical problems in the rapid changeover to euro coins and the workforce was no longer prepared to carry on without reinforcements. Otherwise, he said, the factory would miss its 1998 targets because the management had "overestimated production capacity".

The managing director of the mint, Francis Reillac, said yesterday that he had already promised to hire an extra 18 people and could not go any further.

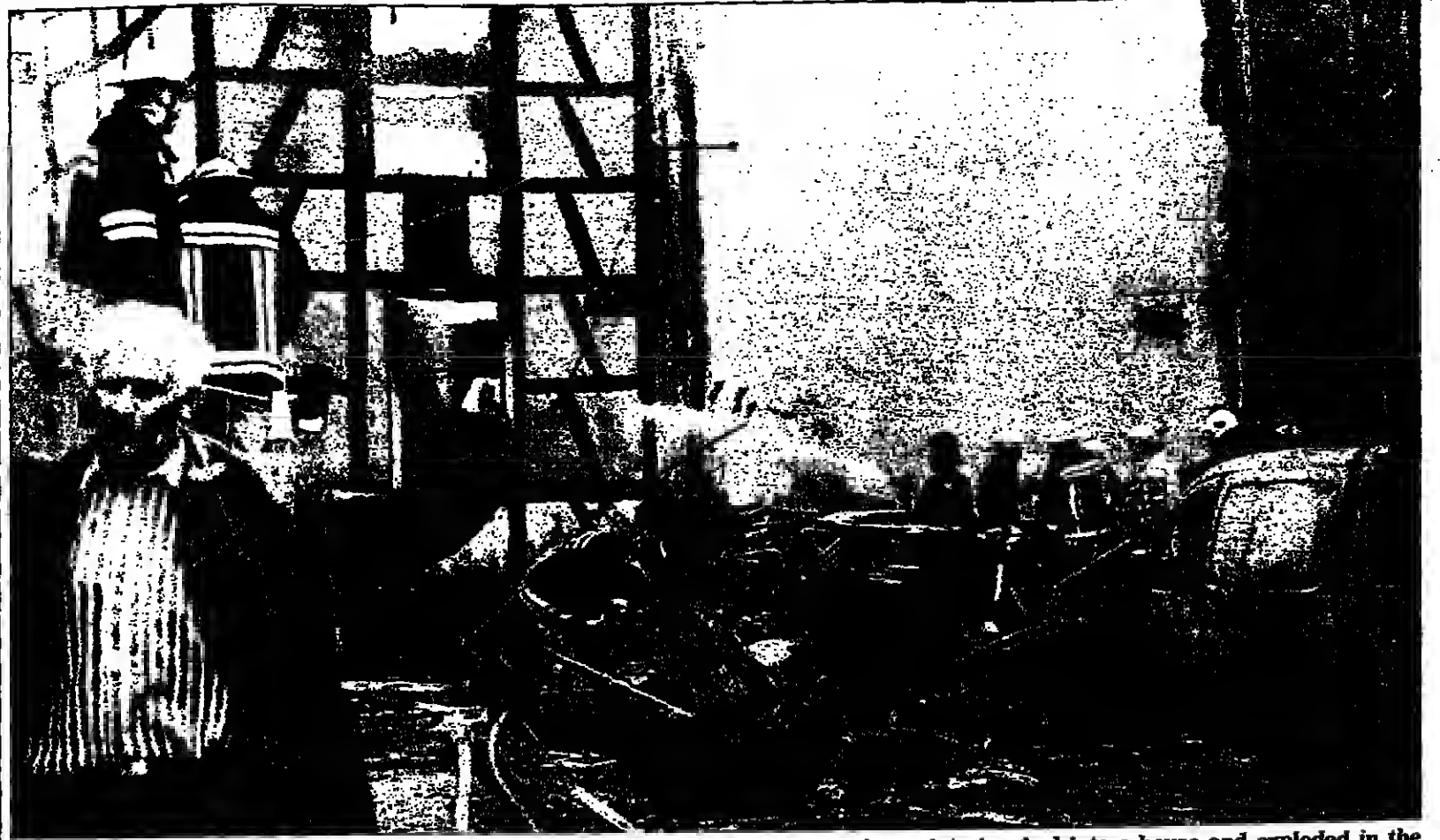
Euro coins and notes will become legal tender in the 11

countries joining the single currency on 1 January 2002. For the first six months, they will circulate alongside national currencies, which will disappear from July of that year.

By the end of 2001, the French national mint has been asked to produce 7.6 billion Euro coins, containing enough metal to build four Eiffel Towers.

There is no particular commercial advantage to France in sprinting ahead of other Euro countries in minting the coins. All will make their own versions of the Euro currency, with slight differences to include national symbols.

Maputo (AP) - The French President, Jacques Chirac, said Africa's former colonial powers and other Western creditor nations must consider alleviating debt burdens stunting the development of countries such as Mozambique. Mr Chirac, on a tour of southern Africa to promote French interests in the region, said France would press for foreign debt relief.



A man gestures as firefighters extinguish a blaze that started when a lorry carrying paint ploughed into a house and exploded in the centre of Stavelot in eastern Belgium yesterday. At least one person was killed and around 10 others were injured. Epa/Belga

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Scandal strikes at Paris clubland

ONE OF the best known night-spots in Paris, now fallen into bankruptcy and disrepair, has been sold at auction for £750,000.

This was quite a bargain if you consider that the last owner of Le Palace paid £4.4m - six times as much - six years ago. It was a steal, if you consider that Mick Hucknall, the British rock-star-entrepreneur, was prepared to pay £4.3m for the club 15 months ago.

The question is: was the sale of the Le Palace literally a steal? The saga of the club, which is close to the Folies Bergères just off the Grands Boulevards in central Paris, is at the centre of a deepening financial and legal scandal.

A parliamentary committee of inquiry will present a report next week stating that France's 400-year-old system of commercial courts - in effect bankruptcy courts - has become a snake-pit of corruption, cronyism and asset-stripping.

A best-selling book, *The Mafia of the Commercial Courts*, chronicles dozens of cases of sickly companies being broken up unnecessarily in recent years, for the profit of court members and officials and their favoured business contacts.

The courts, run by judges who are not lawyers but businessmen elected by other businessmen, are supposed to act in the best interests of the employees and the creditors of struggling companies. Their first duty is to keep businesses alive, if possible. In many cases, according to the parliamentary inquiry and the author Antoine Gaudino - a former fraud squad detective - these duties are wilfully ignored.

The parliamentary investigation, to be published on Thursday next week, will reveal evidence of bribes being paid to judges' secret Swiss bank accounts; of court-appointed liquidators, who have systematically made fortunes out of the misfortunes of others; and of threats of violence against other state officials who tried to uncover what was going on.

The former owner of Le Palace is another singer-turned-entrepreneur, called Régine. She told the parliamentary committee, under oath, that she believes that she - and Mick Hucknall - are the victims of a commercial court system which is out of control.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

The judges and legal administrators of the Tribunal de Commerce de Paris indignantly deny all charges. They are threatening to take legal action against Régine for defamation.

Le Palace was bought at auction on Tuesday by Pierre and Jacques Blanc, two Parisian businessmen, who already own a dozen restaurants. There is no evidence that they were involved in any deal. However, Pierre Blanc was once himself a judge in the Parisian commercial courts.

The saga of Le Palace is bizarre, to say the least. Hucknall, who already owns a string of dance clubs in the United States, offered £4.3m for the former theatre in March last year. He invested £500,000, without any guarantees, just to keep the club's team of employees together and stop the building from falling further into disrepair. His offer was gratefully accepted by the club's creditors.

It was rejected, peremptorily, by the judge in charge of the case, Jean-Louis Chevalier, who described Hucknall as a "blow-in Englishman" who wanted to pay off the creditors in "monkey-money".

The embarrassing fact remains that Hucknall's plan would have given the club's creditors a large share of their money back. The route chosen by Mr Chevalier - a much-delayed auction for approved bidders - generated a selling price so low that creditors will probably receive nothing.

The Socialist MP in charge of the parliamentary investigation, Arnaud Montebourg, a respected young lawyer, called in Mr Chevalier to explain his actions last week.

The MP described the rejection of the Hucknall deal as "an irrational decision which can only be explained by considerations which defy economic logic." He has called for the opening of a criminal investigation into the affair.

The unravelling of similarly entrenched abuses in the commercial courts might suggest that corruption is gaining ground. The truth is probably the opposite.

France is emerging into a more accountable world in which cronyism and corruption are no longer regarded as inescapable.

LORD IRVINE

'The Government believes that, if couples choose to marry to offer their children security, we should offer them our support'

THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 4

Students turn the tables on Clinton

AN AUDIENCE of China's elite students yesterday turned the tables on President Bill Clinton, challenging him on America's own human-rights record, arms sales to Taiwan, and whether there was a hidden agenda, "behind your smile", to "contain" China.

The exchange at Peking University, cradle of the 1989 pro-democracy movement, was broadcast live, again giving Mr Clinton an opportunity to take his message on "universal" rights and individual freedoms direct to the Chinese.

His access to China's airwaves has become the most remarkable aspect of his visit, following the decision to broadcast Saturday's joint press conference with President Jiang Zemin. Today in Shanghai Mr Clinton is to host a live radio phone-in.

Yesterday there was little in his speech or answers to make the state propaganda tears flinch. He argued for "greater respect for divergent political and religious convictions" but,

BY TERESA POOLE
in Shanghai

unlike at the weekend, made no direct mention of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, the Dalai Lama, or China's imprisoned dissidents.

On human rights, the American president appeared to tread cautiously.

"Today we do not seek to impose our vision on others but we are convinced certain rights are universal," he said. But Mr Clinton also described how he had "seen freedom in many manifestations" in China. Citing village democracy, fax machines and a Sunday church service, he added: "In all these ways I felt a steady breeze of freedom."

Yesterday the prominent dissident Wang Youcai felt something rather chillier when police took him from his home in Zhejiang province, west of Shanghai.

Last week he and two friends tried to register an independent party, and, like other



Students at Peking University listening to Bill Clinton yesterday. He commented on a range of issues, including human rights, then took questions. Reuters

activists, he has probably been rounded up until Mr Clinton is out of his area. Such incidents provide a reminder for Mr Clinton that his new role on Chinese television may prove no more than an aberration.

And the Peking University appearance was an equally timely lesson that the gilded youth of modern China have not signed up for American values in their entirety. Taking questions afterwards, the leader of the free world seemed taken aback to find students at China's premier learning es-

tablishment had their own, equally forceful, take on world affairs. Why, asked one, was America "repeatedly selling advanced weapons to Taiwan?" Another asked: "Do you have any other hidden sayings behind this smile? Do you have any other design to contain China?" Mr Clinton responded: "If I did, I wouldn't mask it behind a smile. But I don't."

Another student said China welcomed "sincere" suggestions on its rights situation, but countered: "Do you think that in the United States today

there are also some problems in the area of democracy, freedom, and human rights?" Mr Clinton admitted racial discrimination and crime were still problems in the US.

If he had assumed his audience would publicly welcome his words on the importance of individual freedoms, another student told him otherwise. "In China the prosperous development of the nation is actually the free choice of our people. I think that only those who can really respect the freedom of others can really say that they

understand what freedom means," she said, to applause.

No student with any sense of self-preservation would have stood up, live on national television, and yesterday asked any question which directly challenged the Chinese government. Afterwards, speaking privately, there were more enthusiastic responses. "Excellent!" was the verdict of Ms Zhao, a geology post-graduate student. "His speech was to our students' taste. And he himself is a nice person with charming character. Some of those ques-

tions are really good." But there was also criticism. A maths postgraduate student said: "His speech was too general, not frank enough."

The only slightly tense moment came when a student reminded Mr Clinton how Mr Jiang had been met by demonstrating students when he addressed Harvard University last autumn. How would Mr Clinton feel if treated like that on arrival in Peking?

He could have pointed out that students are not allowed to demonstrate in China, or said

he would have liked to see students expressing their opinions. But he offered a blander response. He would like to "go over and talk to them" or ask for one or two demonstrators to be brought to him "and they could say what is on their minds, and I could answer".

It was tame compared to Saturday. But it must have come as news to many of the millions watching that Mr Jiang had faced demonstrators on his US trip - not the sort of information normally carried by China's state media.

Glasnost? Well, it's certainly similar to Moscow in 1987

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S question and answer session at Peking University and the landmark press conference at which he and President Jiang Zemin discussed "forbidden" topics like the Tiananmen Square killings and the Dalai Lama before a live television audience were vintage moments of early Chinese glasnost. No one knew in advance that either session would be broadcast, not even apparently - President Clinton.

Before the press conference, he did not know whether he

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

would be addressing 500 journalists or half of China, said one aide. It was the sort of surprise that drivers pulled off the road for and which neighbour related to neighbour.

But they were examples of early glasnost because no one knew to tune in, because subsequent reports omitted the most sensitive sections, and because they were novel enough to arouse controversy. They place China in terms of glasnost

roughly where the former Soviet Union was in 1987, when Margaret Thatcher ran rings around three premier state television interviews and told them that the world saw Soviet missiles as a threat. That interview was broadcast, late at night and unannounced, but it became a legend. So, too, did Ronald Reagan's epic exchange with Moscow University students a year later - and precisely 10 years before Mr Clinton's visit to China, where he quoted from banned writers,

castigated obstructive bureaucrats everywhere, and preached individual freedom.

Some in Washington have criticised Mr Clinton for being mean-mouthed, especially in his condemnation of Tiananmen Square - for "saying as little as he could get away with about the tragic loss of life more accurately called a massacre", in the words of William Safire. Others have compared his relatively low-key and at times even pedestrian manner in Peking unfavourably

with the messianic spirit of President Reagan in Moscow - which a re-reading of the Reagan transcripts shows to be a fair criticism.

Yet there are parallels. The televised statements of foreign leaders can have an effect. Some of what Mr Clinton said will be remembered down the years in China, just as the words of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Reagan are remembered in Russia. They offered a different view, and they defended it.

One of the basic questions

posed by the opening up of Russia and China is whether change is more successfully accomplished when political change precedes economic change, as in Russia, or when economic change precedes political change as in China. So far, analysts have seemed to favour the Chinese model, citing the chaotic post-Soviet economy, the supposed transfer of media control from the state to corrupt business interests, and the immaturity of party politics.

It can be argued, however,

that while China's private sector is infinitely more developed than Russia's was before the fall of the Communist regime, China now faces a transition to political freedoms that must advance if economic progress is to continue. Certainly, many of the political phenomena that could be observed in the Soviet Union of the late Eighties are now surfacing in China.

The media in late Soviet Russia were almost as free to discuss local controversies and economic corruption as they

are now in China. And when a new generation of journalists and students is emboldened to ask the sort of searching questions that Russian reporters and students were starting to ask about their system, and their Chinese counterparts are prepared to air in public forums today, the days of information dictatorship are numbered.

There are then only two questions to ask: whether the regime can change fast enough to accommodate that change, and if not, what then?

Patten's anniversary address stirs passions in Hong Kong

IT IS exactly a year since the British withdrew from Hong Kong. The new order has decided not to mark this anniversary, although it plans lavish celebrations for the following day, commemorating "the glorious reunification of the motherland".

The people of the former colony were, however, offered a reminder of the old order in the shape of Chris Patten, the last governor of Hong Kong.

At the invitation of the state-owned Radio Television Hong Kong he broadcast a "Letter to Hong Kong" on Sunday containing a controversial and characteristically forthright view on the territory's future.

Surprisingly, given the generally low level of coverage accorded to the former governor, the broadcast attracted a great deal of publicity and criticism from the pro-Peking media.

Mr Patten predicted that Hong Kong would come through the current financial crisis in good shape. But he struck a far more controversial note by noting with approval

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

"how even the slightest hint that civil liberties in Hong Kong might be constrained has produced a big public response".

He also rubbed salt into the wounds of the new administration by referring to the victory in the elections in Hong Kong last month of "candidates who believe unequivocally in decency, democracy and the rule of law". Without exception those elected are vocal critics of the present regime. Mr Patten described their election as "a big thumbs-up for Hong Kong's future as a free society".

He told his audience he had been disappointed by his inability as governor of Hong Kong to attend the annual vigil in commemoration of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. "I used to watch the dignified crowds with admiration," he said. "I did so again this year." Chinese officials have described the vigil as subversive and have warned Hong Kong people not to meddle in the af-



Chris Patten: Broadcast

fairs of the Chinese mainland. Even before the broadcast was aired it attracted criticism from the Wen Wei Po newspaper, a Peking-controlled daily.

Not only has Mr Patten been allowed to broadcast on the vigorously independent state-owned radio station but a recent opinion poll showed that the former governor still enjoys higher ratings than Tung Chee-hwa, the head of the first post-colonial administration.

A University of Hong Kong

poll found 43.5 per cent of respondents saying that Mr Tung was doing a worse job than Mr Patten. Only 14 per cent thought Mr Tung was doing better.

The former governor is such a taboo subject in the new administration that he will not be invited to attend this week's opening of Hong Kong's new airport. This is despite the fact that the government claims all those who played a role in its creation have been invited. Lord Wilson of Tillymorn, Mr Patten's predecessor, who initiated the airport project was also left off the invitation list.

A government spokesman said that the two former governors were not invited because "they do not fall into the category of overseas guests". Mr Patten plans to come back to Hong Kong in October as part of a tour to promote his book *East and West*. This is the volume which was withdrawn from publication by HarperCollins on orders from the publisher's boss Rupert Murdoch, who stated that he disapproved of Mr Patten's policies as governor.

Tripp puts her story to Grand Jury

THE WOMAN who made the tape recordings that could yet bring down a President is to make her long-awaited appearance before the grand jury in Washington today.

Linda Tripp, who is 48 and employed at the Pentagon, triggered the criminal investigation into President Clinton's relations with Monica Lewinsky when she sent 20 hours' worth of cassette tapes to the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, in January.

Ms Tripp had secretly recorded conversations with Ms Lewinsky in which she related an 18-month affair with the President and her disappointment when it ended. In the tapes, sections of which have been leaked to the media, Ms

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

Lewinsky refers to Mr Clinton as "the Big Creep" and "Handsome" and tells of waiting in a side room off the Oval office to perform oral sex on the President after his visit; the President of Mexico, had left.

Among the questions the prosecutor will want Ms Tripp to answer are why she made the recordings, whether anyone asked her to, why she told the prosecutor about them, and whether she has information that was not on the tapes.

She will also be asked about the so-called "talking points" - a list of questions and answers, ostensibly prepared by a lawyer, that she was allegedly given by



Tripp: crucial testimony

Ms Lewinsky to ensure that any testimony they gave in court coincided. The tapes and the "talking points" are crucial elements in Mr Starr's case that Mr Clin-

ton had an affair with Ms Lewinsky when she was a White House trainee, lied about it under oath and obstructed the course of justice by prevailing upon her to lie about it also.

Yesterday the appeals court considered the President's case for keeping discussions with his friend and White House legal adviser, Bruce Lindsey, confidential. *Newsweek* magazine also published a second account of the alleged affair by another Lewinsky confidante.

Ms Tripp's testimony is supposed to be confidential, although she may talk about it if she chooses. However, it seems inevitable that at least some of the details will leak out.

Tripp to defend evidence, Review, page 8

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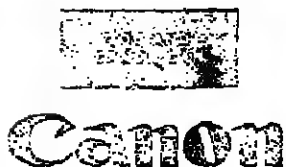
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The bag lady who is Mother Russia

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

I FIRST saw Lydia Ivanova trying on old shoes that had been left in a nest line by some rubbish bins in case a poor person like her could make use of them.

The bag lady was totally absorbed in her selection of footwear for the new season. Just as if she was in an elegant shop, she slipped into some high heels and tottered a few paces to see if they were right before settling for some more sensible sandals and boots.

Later she told me: "The bins are like an oriental bazaar. You can find everything in them if you're not too fussy - not only bread but jam and meat, not to mention clothes and shoes."

My friendship with Lydia has developed gradually. She is often to be found near Samotechny Lane, sitting in the Hermitage Gardens behind the splendid New Opera House, which has recently been completed as an alternative to the Bolshoi Theatre. A respected local figure, she is a victim of the times in Russia and to me a symbol of Mother Russia herself.

Russians believe in *sudba*, or fate. It is at once their greatest strength and biggest weakness. Because they often mistake human stupidity for

the will of God, they tolerate discomforts and abuses that could be changed. And yet, when faced with real disaster, they show an awe-inspiring ability to endure and overcome.

With remarkable lucidity and lack of bitterness, Lydia told me of the tricks fortune had played on her. In Soviet times, she worked as a physiotherapist at a health spa by the Sea of Azov, where patients went for mud baths and to be healed with the stings of jellyfish. "I was a rich woman then," she said. "I had a two-room flat with carpets, crystal and gold."

You would not believe it to look at her now, a bundle of rags with an oddly enlarged head (she wears a hat under her headscarf even in good weather). Lydia lost everything in 1991 when she tried to swap her flat to be near relatives in Moldova and was tricked by property sharks who, in the former Soviet Union, were known to murder the elderly in order to acquire their flats.

People were not allowed to

be homeless in the Communist era - the authorities would jail them sooner than see them making the streets look untidy - but many tramps in capitalist Russia are old people who have lost their homes in just such property scams. "I ran away from the bandits in the nick of time," said Lydia. "I applied to the Russian immigration service and came to Moscow as a refugee. I had a box with my few remaining possessions. But I was robbed again at Pavletsky Station and ended up living there for nine months with other homeless people. The police beat me up twice and put me in the hospital."

There doctors told Lydia, who was only in her mid-fifties, that her only hope of shelter was to go into an old people's home. "I did not want to be with senile geriatrics, so I chose the streets instead."

Since then, Lydia, now 60, has learnt to live outdoors in conditions that would send most people insane. She spent last winter, when the mercury dropped to -30C, huddling



Lydia Ivanova and friends

Helen Womack

under a plastic sheet on the building site of the New Opera. "The worst was when I had to crawl into the freezing cold to relieve myself. I tried not to drink any liquid but a human being can't survive without water. I cursed God but I never stopped believing in Him."

She survived. Kind waiters from the restaurant La Vie de Paris, popular with wealthy New Russians, gave her scraps. The officers at Petrovka 38, Moscow's police headquarters, came to know and respect her, as did other tramps. "I keep myself to my-

self, nobody bothers me. It would be a lie to say I do not drink alcohol. But I am not an alcoholic. It's vodka that kills the homeless. I saw three young men die before my eyes this winter."

Lydia does not belong to Moscow's army of beggars who, according to some, have to pay most of the money they collect to the mafia. Lydia is proud of the fact that she earns her living by washing cars parked outside banks.

And now, for the first time since she left the hospital, she also has a roof of sorts over her head. The Yugoslav

guest workers on the New Opera site gave her one of their huts when they finished the job. It stands up a side street across from the police headquarters on a patch of land she has cleaned up and is turning into a garden.

The hut is windowless and has no cooking facilities. Also, Lydia keeps several savage dogs inside to guard her. So when she entertains guests, she invites them to sit on her "lawn". I had a picnic with her there recently. I took a small bag of provisions but her table was already covered with dried fish, cucumbers and vodka.

Miraculously, the fragile hut survived last week's hurricane, which brought down trees in parks across Moscow. But ahead of the Youth Olympic Games next month, the police are falling back on old Soviet habits of clearing tramps off the streets, to give an impression of cleanliness to foreign guests.

So far Lydia's good relations with the cops have saved her but she fears she could soon be evicted and temporarily jailed. In case of trouble, she has my telephone number. Watch this space.

HELEN WOMACK

Lukashenko tries to drive out Russian ambassador

BEARUS HAS bolstered its reputation as the juvenile delinquent of eastern Europe by forcing out from his residence the ambassador of the only nation that could be described as a significant friend and ally: Russia.

Russian officials confirmed yesterday that their envoy, Valery Loschchin, had left his home in a leafy diplomatic compound which has been the battlefield for the infamous "sewer wars" - a fracas that has led nine nations, including Britain, to recall their ambassadors from the increasingly isolated ex-Soviet republic.

The Russian embassy in Belarus said their man in Minsk moved out after the water and electricity were cut off, part of a campaign by the Belarusian president, Alexander Lukashenko, to regain possession of the luxury residences.

Belarus says the compound needs repairs to the sewage system, but others suspect the president wants the prize properties for his cronies. Despite everything, Russia has decided not to withdraw its ambassador. But the Minsk-Moscow relationship - held together by common language, Soviet past, Slavic culture and close economic ties - has been put under strain by Mr Lukashenko's exploits. A leading Russian television commentator recently described Mr Lukashenko as a "pig" and "an imbecile".

Human rights organisations and others have long accused Belarus of stifling all opposition

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow



Alexander Lukashenko

by imprisoning and beating up political opponents, closing down independent media, and violently breaking up demonstrations. International organisations, including the European Union, have also long harboured concern about the manner in which Mr Lukashenko, in a highly suspect public referendum in 1996, extended his term in office, and eradicated the last vestiges of an independent judiciary or legislature.

Now fresh allegations are looming: a report to be published this week by Human Rights Watch says that young people associated with the Belarusian People's Front, the most prominent opposition party, have been beaten, arrested, threatened, and ex-

pelled from university for supporting its youth branch.

The report cites the case of two youths - Vadim Labkovich, 16, and Alexei Shidlovsky, 18 - who were arrested last August for writing graffiti attacking the president on public buildings and statues (including Lenin's) in Stalitsy, 50 miles south-west of Minsk. They spent six months in custody in filthy and overcrowded conditions before their trial, a fact which - as one was only 16 - violated international agreements on the treatment of juveniles.

Instead of facing the usual petty charge for graffiti writing, they were charged with "malicious hooliganism", an offence punishable by up to five years in prison. During their five-day court hearing, they were brought to the courtroom in handcuffs and placed in an iron cage, guarded at all times by at least six armed policemen and an attack dog. When they were finally found guilty, the 18-year-old, who had earlier spent a month in a prison clinic after an alleged beating by guards, was dispatched to a prison labour camp for one and a half years. The 16-year-old was given a suspended sentence.

The report will also include details of the case of a Minsk-based director, Yuri Khaschchavsky, who made an award-winning film satirising Mr Lukashenko which was shown on a French-German channel in Europe. Afterwards, he was beaten unconscious by unidentified attackers.



Belarusian policemen drag away a protester during a protest rally in Minsk last year. Human rights campaigners have accused authorities of imprisoning political opponents and breaking up peaceful demonstrations. Reuters

Portugal's abortion vote fiasco

By ELIZABETH NASH

THE FIRST ever referendum in Portugal ended in fiasco on Sunday when 69 per cent of the electorate opted not to vote on liberalising abortion. Of those who did, 51 per cent voted against allowing abortions on request during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy; but the low turnout means the result is not binding.

The outcome has embarrassed Antonio Guterres's ruling Socialists. It proves the country's conservative Catholic Church can have a powerful impact on government policy, reveals deep rifts between the Socialists themselves, and leaves the government in a constitutional tangle.

The negative result has also cast a shadow over a more controversial referendum, to be

held in the autumn, on decentralising political power. The Church has been campaigning for months for a "no" vote, and anti-abortion priests have threatened to excommunicate those voting in favour. It was Church pressure that forced Mr Guterres to put the abortion law approved by parliament in February to the popular vote.

Mr Guterres's party pushed for a "yes" vote, but the Prime Minister himself, a devout Catholic, said it was a matter of individual conscience and that he personally would vote "no".

Critics on both left and right have condemned the poll's outcome. Alvaro Cunhal, the veteran Communist Party leader, said the referendum

was unconstitutional because parliament had already decriminalised abortion in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy.

Why, the Communists asked, did the Socialists vote for a law in parliament - returning to the fray several times until they finally pushed it through - and then talk of individual conscience in a referendum?

Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Conservative former prime minister, said he was "seriously worried" by the high abstention rate, calling the whole exercise unnecessary. He believes the Portuguese people are happy with the 1984 law that permits abortions only in strictly defined circumstances.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, leader of the centre-right Social Democrats, plans to block

attempts to implement the law. "It would not be politically legitimate to go ahead," Mr Rebelo de Sousa said, a view echoed by the extreme-right Popular Party.

Mr Guterres is now torn over whether to defy the Church and press ahead with the law against his personal convictions, or drop it and thus undermine parliament.

Since 1984, abortions have been permitted if the foetus is malformed or if the mother's health is in danger. Only 300 legal abortions took place last year, but pro-choice campaigners put the tally of illegal abortions - punishable by up to three years' imprisonment - at up to 20,000. They say botched abortions are the main cause of maternal death in Portugal.

NOTICE TO C&G BORROWERS

- C&G's variable mortgage interest rates are to increase by 0.25% per annum.
- The increase takes effect on 1 July 1998 for loans where no notice period for rate changes is required.
- For loans where a notice period is required, borrowers have already been sent individual notification.
- For loans in our annual instalment review scheme, the change will be reflected in payments from March 1999.
- This notice does not apply to new variable rate loans which started on or after 16 June 1998 as they are already on the new rate. In addition, it does not apply to borrowers whose mortgage rate is currently fixed, nor does it affect those borrowers with a capped-rate mortgage.

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One size cannot fit all in the new euro-zone

IF THE GREAT dilemma of British economic policy is the need to cope with the two-tier economy - services still racing ahead and manufacturing in recession - could not that become a wider dilemma for policymakers everywhere? Does, for example, the new European Central Bank set interest rates to suit the countries which have relatively large manufacturing sectors or those which have relatively small ones? Is it possible to make a choice, anyway?

The starting point is to see just how different apparently similar economies are. The balance between agriculture, services and industry in the G7 countries is shown in graph - but showing percentage of employment rather than proportion of GDP. So it is looking at jobs rather than at economic activity. The figures are all leading in the same direction, for services dominate everywhere. Nevertheless the differences are still surprisingly large. In the US and Canada services are over 73 per cent of total employment, whereas in Germany and Italy they are still under 60 per cent. Industry still employs nearly 38 per cent of Germans, but under 23 per cent of Canadians and just 24 per cent of Americans.

Is this already affecting policy? I can't prove it, but I think to some extent it does. In the US monetary policy is set without explicit reference to the needs of industry, and interest rate decisions are not subject to pressure from industry lobby groups. The sort of response that greets any change in interest rates here, with the CBI welcoming falls in rates and criticising rises, is almost entirely absent in the US. Instead rates are set with general reference to inflationary pressures, including pressure in the



**HAMISH
MCRAE**

Monetary policy will inevitably be wrong for some parts of the European economy

labour market. What happens to the dollar is a factor, but not one which seems to figure large in the equation.

So I suppose one could say that the US Fed seeks to push interest rates in a direction that suits the service-oriented nature of the US economy, and the structural changes that take place in industry are seen as beyond the Fed's proper control. If a high dollar means jobs go to Mexico, so be it.

By contrast, in Germany the exchange rate is very important in Bundesbank decisions. The main guideline remains the growth of money supply, but the exchange rate is an important secondary factor. When the mark is weak its importance lies largely in its impact on inflation: the Bundesbank does not like an over-weak mark because of the way in which higher import prices feed through to domestic inflation. When the mark is over-strong, the Bundesbank does take the needs of German industry into some account. True, many German companies believe it does not pay them enough attention, but

their problems are certainly taken on board and figure in the discussion.

Here, they figure very much in the discussion, even though the proportion of employment in industry is much closer to North American levels than it is to Germany. Indeed I think it is now pretty clear that excessive attention to the supposed needs of industry by the previous Chancellor held down interest rates for too long and therefore exacerbated the dilemma now. Had Kenneth Clarke sanctioned an earlier rise in rates this would have shaved the top off the service boom and so lessened the need to raise rates this spring. By going for the short-term interest of manufacturing we ended up damaging the long-term one.

But if we have a dilemma here, the new euro-zone will have a much greater one. A single monetary policy will have to encompass the needs of the Netherlands (23 per cent of employment in industry), Ireland and Belgium (28 per cent) and Finland (27 per cent), as well as those of Germany's 38 per cent. It so happens that these high-service, low-industry nations tend to be booming while the economies of the high-industry ones like Germany and Italy seem relatively slack.

We see the problem of the "one-size-fits-all" monetary policy in terms of countries being at a different stage of the economic cycle - a core problem - but it is also a function of countries having a different balance between manufacturing and services. Manufacturing will always be more affected by external shocks, in particular the rate of growth of world trade, than services, where demand tends to be internally determined. This leads, however, to a

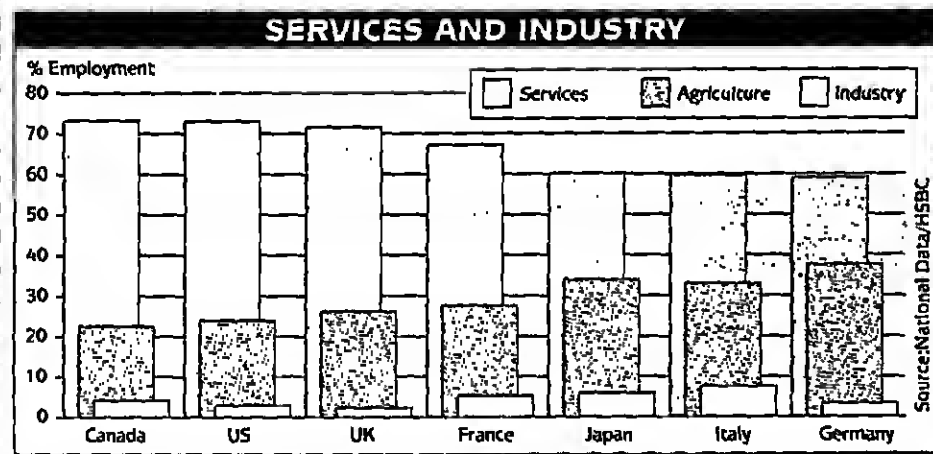
further complication, in that the service sector is a great catch-all, some parts of which are directly and immediately affected by changes in interest rates and the exchange rate, and other parts of which are relatively immune. For example, the French service sector is skewed towards tourism, an industry which is notoriously sensitive to exchange rates. The UK's is affected by our large surplus on foreign interest and dividends, which vary immediately and directly in sterling terms in response to exchange rate changes but do not vary much in dollar terms.

The UK is not in Emu so that does not matter for the time being, but Belgium, and Belgium has a large service sector (just under 70 per cent of employment) which is relatively immune to exchange rate changes because much of it is in the public sector. So measures appropriate to, say, the Dutch service sector, will not necessarily be right for the neighbouring Belgian one.

So a new European Central Bank will not only have to cope with countries at a different stage of the economic cycle - that will presumably decrease over time as the cycles are brought into sync. It will have the continuing problem of some industry-dependent countries and some service-dependent ones. And it will have to recognise that the service-dependent countries are all different.

Or at least it ought to. Will it? I cannot see how it can. The European economy is so diverse that monetary policy will inevitably be wrong for some parts of it. I suspect that even though the European Central Bank is located in Frankfurt, it will set its policies to fit the dominant service side of the European economy rather than the still-important manufacturing one. Policy will have to fit in with the big numbers of demand and that will inevitably be dominated by services. The result of that will be continuing and growing frustration by manufacturers that they are getting the "wrong" policies. In other words the sort of frustration vented here by the Confederation of British Industry will become much more widespread across Europe.

If this is right, the current British dilemma will become a recurring European dilemma. We are getting a glimpse of things to come.



Molins is forced to cut more jobs

A MAJOR downturn in Far East demand for tobacco machinery has forced the engineering group Molins to speed up restructuring by cutting a further 400 jobs.

It will have halved its workforce in the last two years and is closing its Peterborough operations while taking a £16m pre-tax exceptional charge in the 1998 financial year.

The latest cuts will help the company reduce its cost base

BY TERRY MACALISTER

by £10m annually but also add to the reduction of its business. Yesterday Molins agreed at an extraordinary general meeting to sell off its Langston corrugated board company. This leaves it dependent on tobacco machinery for 70 per cent of its activities with a small packaging business responsible for the other 30 per cent.

The problems in the tobacco

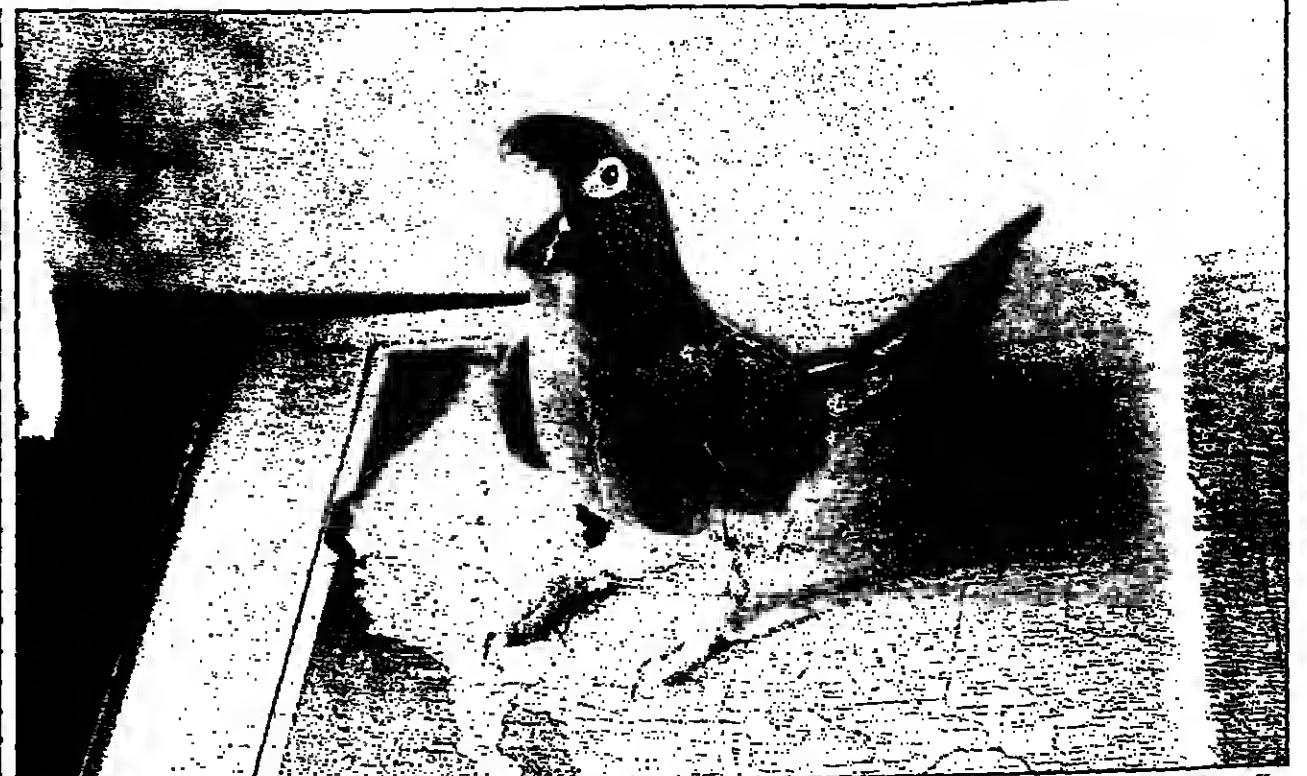
machinery business stem from a period of over-ordering by China coupled with depressed demand from other crisis-hit Far East countries.

China believed it had a growing export trade for which it began to purchase a great deal of new equipment. It slammed the brakes on this development after realising much of the demand was coming from its own black market.

Although cigarette sales

have been growing, the tobacco machinery business has also been hit by the continuing threat of legislation in the US. This has forced major producers like Philip Morris to put off new investment decisions.

Molins will cut 400 of the 1,350 staff who work within the tobacco machinery division. It is expected to close Peterborough and consolidate its activities on a site at Sanderson over the next six months.



THIS PARROT is not deceased. But, unlike the one Monty Python famously nailed to its perch, it was never alive. It is the computer-generated hero of

Paulie - a Parrot's Tale, a family film to be released in the UK next month. Paulie was created by FrameStore, Europe's largest digital effects group and a

division of Lord Satchel's Megalomed. Turnover at Megalomed tripled in the six months to 31 March to £18m: pre-tax profits rose 44 per cent to £2.4m.

Property price rises tail off as mortgage lending falls

HOUSE PRICE rises are slowing and the level of property sales remains disappointing, according to the latest statistics. Nationwide Building Society said average UK house prices rose 0.8 per cent in June and the average increase over the last 12 months fell back to 11.3 per cent, the lowest level since June last year.

Meanwhile gross mortgage lending fell 4 per cent to £5.88bn in May compared with April, although it was 9 per cent higher than in May last year, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

The picture is even less buoyant if home-owners re-

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

mortgaging existing properties to take advantage of cheaper mortgage rates - including fixed-rate offers from rival lenders - are excluded from the statistics. So far this year remortgages account for at least 25 per cent and maybe as much as 35 per cent of all gross lending.

Net lending, which excludes redemptions, repayments and also remortgages fell 22 per cent between April and May and was also 16 per cent lower than in May last year. Remortgage applications have also helped boost the latest figures

for mortgage approvals, which were up to 123,000 transactions in May, while the value was 16 per cent up on a year before at £7.6bn.

Property sales however showed a fall to 108,000 in May, the lowest figures since September 1996. Nationwide described the low level of sales as disappointing, making it unlikely that its original forecasts of a 5 per cent rise in property sales to 1.53 million will now be reached.

A spokesman blamed the rise in mortgage rates and the growing feeling that unemployment has bottomed out and could soon start to rise

again. Other lenders claim, however, that more than half of all mortgages are now fixed-rate loans which protect borrowers from immediate rate rises.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors yesterday claimed that house price inflation has levelled off thanks to a welcome increase in the supply of properties coming on the market. The average house is fetching 96 per cent of the asking price but the time taken to sell property has risen from 11 weeks in February to 13 weeks now, according to Black Horse Agencies, now part of Bradford & Bingley.

Proposal for casino tax eased

THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, has proposed an amendment to his Finance Bill to reduce the level of tax to be paid by casinos on yield from gaming, the House of Commons order paper showed yesterday.

The proposal is that the new top rate of tax, 40 per cent, will now apply only to gross gaming yield in excess of £4.2m a year instead of £2.9m.

In the Budget, Mr Brown had proposed changes which would raise revenue from the tax by £25m pounds in a year. Tax of 2.5 per cent was to be payable on the first £400,000 of gross gaming yield; 12.5 per cent on the next £1m; 25 per cent on the next £1.5m; and 40 per cent on the remainder.

Under the amendment, the 2.5 per cent tax band is raised to £450,000 of gross yield; the next £1m will be at 12.5 per cent; the next £1m 20 per cent; the next £1.75m 30 per cent; and the remainder 40 per cent. The amendment is expected to be debated in the Commons today.

Lloyd's broker pays out compensation

LEADING INSURANCE broker Lambert Fenchurch has been forced to pay compensation to a range of clients over the way commission payments were handled.

Regulators at Lloyd's of London are now investigating to see whether there has been a breach of market rules which could lead to a fine.

The insurance broker admits that hundreds of thousands of dollars of commission were unfairly kept by the US marine division of the Fenchurch group, before its merger with Lowndes Lambert.

John Pexton, a managing director of Lambert Fenchurch's marine division and a former Fenchurch main board director, has been interviewed as part of the Lloyd's investigation.

David Margrett, chief executive of Lambert Fenchurch, declined to comment on the problem. "It would not be fair on John Pexton or Lloyd's for me to comment ahead of any findings," he said.

But insiders said the com-

BY TERRY MACALISTER

pany is seriously embarrassed by the issue, which has been continuing for a number of years. It was first unearthed by Lowndes Lambert officials after the takeover of the Fenchurch group last year.

"Once they had seen what was going on the Lambert directors wasted no time in paying compensation to clients who had lost out. Some of those clients have remained with the company," said one insider.

He added that the Lambert Fenchurch directors had taken the issue to Lloyd's, whose investigation was expected to be completed last month. But it will take longer to complete because the case officer has left and has just been replaced.

Mr Pexton was in control of the US marine division at the time of the difficulty, but he is understood not to have benefited personally from the extra payments.

Lambert Fenchurch reported strong pre-tax and pre-ex-

ceptional profits last week, but saw its share price fall after cutting its dividend and warning it needed to build up cash reserves. It wants money for expansion but also to bolster itself against "current harsh trading conditions".

The company was one of many caught up in pensions mis-selling. It made a £2.4m provision in its latest accounts to cover the outcome.

Further trouble in the marine sector has surfaced with the dismissal of one of its most senior brokers, Julian Wade, who has spent 25 years in the business.

He is suing the company for unfair dismissal and breach of contract, but Mr Margrett said the claim would be strongly contested.

Mr Wade joined Lambert Fenchurch when his former broking company, Blackwall Green, was taken over in early 1996. He has instructed law firm Williamson & Horrocks to take action against his former employer.

Notice to Halifax borrowers.

The variable base rate for Halifax plc mortgage accounts (but not secured personal loan accounts) will be increased by 0.25% p.a. to 8.95% p.a.

The new interest rate will take effect on:

- 1st July 1998 for borrowers subject to immediate notice of increase in the interest rate.
- 1st August 1998 for borrowers subject to one month's notice of increase in the interest rate.
- The dates we specify for other borrowers.

Under the terms of Budget Plan the monthly payment will be amended from April 1999 or from the next review date for mortgage accounts on Annual Review.

TERMS AND
NOTES



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Paper triumph for Lord Irvine

TO THE Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane to witness the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, receive the "Personality of the Year" award.

Over 1,000 lawyers (a disturbing sight) attended the sumptuous banquet last Thursday to celebrate the fourth annual Lawyer/Hilal legal awards, sponsored jointly by The Lawyer magazine and the independent financial advisers' arm of the Halifax.

After a breathless introduction by TV personality Jonathan Dimbleby, Lord Irvine gamely thanked the British media for raising his profile. He added that he was particularly grateful for the votes of lawyers called "Pugin", "Wolsey" and "Wallpaper". Perhaps The Lawyer should introduce a new category next year: "Decorator of the Year".

SHELL, the global oil hehe-moth, is on the brink of one of those corporate makeovers so beloved of polo-necked design gurus in Soho lofts.

According to my spies, Shell's main aim is to soften the "harsh" yellow used on its shell-shaped logo, and to introduce instead a mellower yellow.

PEOPLE AND
BUSINESS
BY JOHN
WILLCOCK



low, redolent of friendliness to the environment and the like.

The company also wants to "smooth out the edges" of the shell logo, for the same reasons.

A spokesman for Shell, when asked yesterday whether these stories were true, replied: "Not that I've heard of. We have been in discussions with three agencies about how to develop our corporate relations strategy. No budget has been allocated yet, and no choice of agency has been made."

For good measure, the spokesman added that no changes were planned for the colour or shape of the "pecten".

The what? Not many people know this, but the Shell logo is called a pecten. Or, as the Chambers English Dictionary describes it: "The scallop genus of molluscs, with ribbed shell."

And its colour and shape are safe. Thank God for that.

THE PROPERTY team at Nicholson Graham & Jones, a law firm based in Cannon Street in the City, has unearthed a twist to the firm's name in a recent anagram quiz.

At the firm's annual training weekend, in between the usual orienteering and paintball "team-building" exercises, a challenge was set to find the best anagram from the firm's name. Strict rules applied - each letter had to be used, and used only once.

Bright sparks at the firm didn't take too long to work out that the managing partner's name, Michael Johns, can be extracted from the firm's moniker. The runner-up was "Michael Johns groans on".

Hard to top that, you may think, but property partner Nicky Hyams, who regularly acts for the likes of Jermyn Investment Properties and Dunbar Bank, went one better with: "On Michael John's

organ". It sounds like an old folk song but, says Nicky: "It came to me in a flash."

THE FINANCIAL Services Authority (FSA) has poached another pointy head. Paul Johnson, currently the deputy director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS), has been appointed senior economist, economics of financial regulation, at the FSA.

Mr Johnson, a mere 31, will report to Clive Briault, director of central policy at the FSA. Mr Johnson joined the IFS 10 years ago and has published extensively on pensions, income inequality and tax reform. He is also a member of the Pension Provision Group, chaired by Tom Ross and set up by the Secretary of State for Social Services to review the UK pensions system.

SCHRODER Investment Management is to sponsor the golfing European Seniors Tour which features veterans like Gary Player.

Yesterday one of the organisers, Bernard Gallacher, the golfer and director of the European PGA tour, discovered that he was born in the same year and on the same day

as Rod Dunean, the director of Schroder Investment Management in charge of the sponsorship. Both will be 50 this year. Spooky. The similarities do not extend to their respective handicaps, however.

THE ROYAL Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is reckoned to be a pretty stable organisation, even by its members. There were raised eyebrows in the property world, therefore, when the incoming president, Richard Lay, booked an enormous venue for his inaugural address on 6 July.

According to this week's Estates Gazette, cynics predicted disaster when the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in Westminster was booked. Surely no one would bother turning up?

To everyone's amazement, around 900 people have accepted the invitation and the RICS is looking at installing screens outside the main auditorium.

The Gazette ascribes this interest to Mr Lay's promises of reform, which have raised expectations amongst the RICS's 73,000-strong membership. Bearing in mind recent events in Marseilles, I hope there will be a strong police presence at the screens...

Fund sales defy share volatility

SALES of unit trusts and PEPs last month were 15 per cent higher than in May 1997, although predictably they were down on the peak month of April, according to Aulif, the trade body. Total net sales were up 70 per cent to £1.78bn, while retail sales were up 29 per cent to £857m. Net sales of PEPs were £266m, up 9 per cent on May last year.

The best-selling fund sectors to private investors last month were UK Growth and Bond PEPs, with Japan and the Far East excluding Japan selling worst. Best-selling sectors to institutions were Europe and North America, the worst-selling were International Growth and Commodity & Energy.

The move into European funds shows why the Government is right to allow wide diversification in PEPs and in the future ISAs, said Philip Ward, director-general of Aulif, yesterday. "While many stock markets have been volatile recently, this has not deterred investors from continuing to save for the future in equities," he added.

Long-term goals could help Leschly

EVERY NOW and again the stock market gets into its head that the Glaxo-Wellcome merger with SmithKline Beecham is on again. Whether this is just wishful thinking on the market's part, or the story is mischievously being put around by Glaxo, is anyone's guess, but the fact of the matter is that you would be more likely to encounter a snow fall in Hades than see friendly merger talks resumed between these two companies.

SmithKline executives feel so bruised by their encounter with Sir Richard Sykes, who they think double crossed them, that they could barely stand to be in the same room as him any longer, let alone engage in a friendly chat. So if Sir Richard is still intent on doing the deal, he'll have to launch a hostile bid and that's going to require a very hefty premium. Since it appears he's not prepared to do that, the merger strategy is presumably as dead as a dodo.

That underlying reality hasn't stopped the market dreaming. Why doesn't Jan Leschly, chief executive of SmithKline, and the rest of his management team resign, leaving the way clear for Sir Richard to move in and realise the short term



OUTLOOK

cost saving and long term R & D benefits of combining the two, it is often asked? The simple answer is that this would amount to a hostile takeover. For SmithKline to agree such a clearout would therefore require a premium. And so the argument goes round and round.

As it happens SmithKline probably doesn't need a merger as much as Glaxo does, though that doesn't seem to be the perception among investors. SmithKline has as promising a drugs pipeline as Glaxo (some would say more so) but it doesn't have the same patent expiry problem with existing products. So in theory its growth potential is much higher.

Even so, the markets don't quite buy the story. When Mr Leschly said at a results presentation a couple of months ago that growth this year would be restricted to single digits, his shares took a battering, even though this slower growth is being caused by heavy development expenditures. It seemed the final straw after the failed merger talks and American investors in particular swooped out of SmithKline into life science stocks with better short term prospects with a vengeance.

In operational and sales terms, SmithKline may be more of a US company than a British one, but its shares have become more and more heavily owned in Britain - around 70 per cent after the latest American sell off. So even though it wasn't SmithKline's fault that the merger talks failed, the episode has nonetheless quite significantly undermined the company's investment

Don't be surprised, then, to see Mr Leschly attempt to confound the sceptics by taking a leaf out of BP's book. The market responded very favourably to the long term targets and goals set first by David Simon and then his successor at BP, John Browne - who incidentally sits

on the SmithKline board as a non executive. These five year goals also have the effect of galvanising management into achieving them.

Long term targeting of this sort is a good deal more difficult in a major drugs company, where future profits are highly dependent on product approvals, and could in certain circumstances prove quite dangerous. But provided SmithKline confines itself to what it believes to be realistically achievable, the approach couldn't be anything but positive. Just recently, SmithKline shares have been returned to the buy lists of a number of brokers. They may have got their timing spot on.

Ed Wallis pulls it off

THE ONLY nose out of joint after yesterday's East Midlands Electricity deal appears to be that of PowerGen's former managing director Deryk King. He will not be slipping into Ed Wallis's chief executive shoes after all. Never mind. Three months gardening leave and a £400,000 pay-off should soften the blow.

Otherwise Ed seems to reckon he has the deal pretty much sewn up. PowerGen has learnt its lesson from two years ago when both ministers and the Monopolies Commission balked at the idea of letting one half of Britain's generating capacity take over a regional supply business in the shape of the next door Rec, Midlands Electricity.

This time all the angles are covered. The regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, looks to have been brought inside by Ed's promise that he will sell off 2,000 megawatts of coal-fired capacity. Even Mrs Blockitt, President of the Board of Trade, may have difficulty living up to her reputation since making power station disposals such a cornerstone of the Government's new energy policy. In fact Ed looks positively like Mrs Beckett's star pupil compared with the truculent schoolboys around at National Power, who are so intent on digging their heels in.

So confident is PowerGen of getting away without a referral that the only thing it has made the East Midlands deal conditional on is its own shareholders' approval. Taking the regulators for granted can be a high risk strategy (as Ladbroke dis-

covered when it bought the Coral bookmakers chain off Bass unconditionally). But Ed is also carrying a stick about with him. No East Midlands means no more coal purchases means no more miners jobs and a big hole in the coal rescue programme.

East Midlands is of course only the appetiser. The main course remains the transatlantic merger with Houston Industries, which would double PowerGen in size and put it on another plane altogether. Tucking a Rec under his belt may prove to be a picnic in comparison.

Even supposing PowerGen and Houston can construct a company with dual listings in London and New York which satisfies both sets of shareholders, they still have to sort out who will run the business. As many before could testify, mergers of equals are not the easiest to pull off.

Wonder of the Goldman ramp

UNILEVER and its new chairman, Niall Fitzgerald, have done much to justify the near doubling of the

company's share price over the last eighteen months, but the hand of god - or Goldman Sachs as it is known in financial markets - also seems to have played a not unimportant part.

The real outperformance in Unilever's share price came after the company was included as a founding stock on the investment bank's "Global Priority List", Goldman's "best of the best" investment buys. Regardless of the underlying fundamentals, the effect is to give companies unrivalled international investment exposure.

Unfortunately, this is a bit of a double edged sword. Unilever was summarily removed from the elevator yesterday with the effect that the shares immediately fell 3 per cent. What did Mr Fitzgerald do wrong? Nothing really, apart from the fact that Goldman seems to think it has already ramped the shares far enough.

Yes, ramped, because this is the effect of being on the list. That a share price is going to rise strongly once added to Goldman's Global Priority List is a self fulfilling prophecy, just as it is going to be damaged once removed. What a racket.

News Analysis: A year after Thailand was forced to devalue, emerging markets remain in turmoil

Currency bomb is still ticking

BY LEA PATERSON

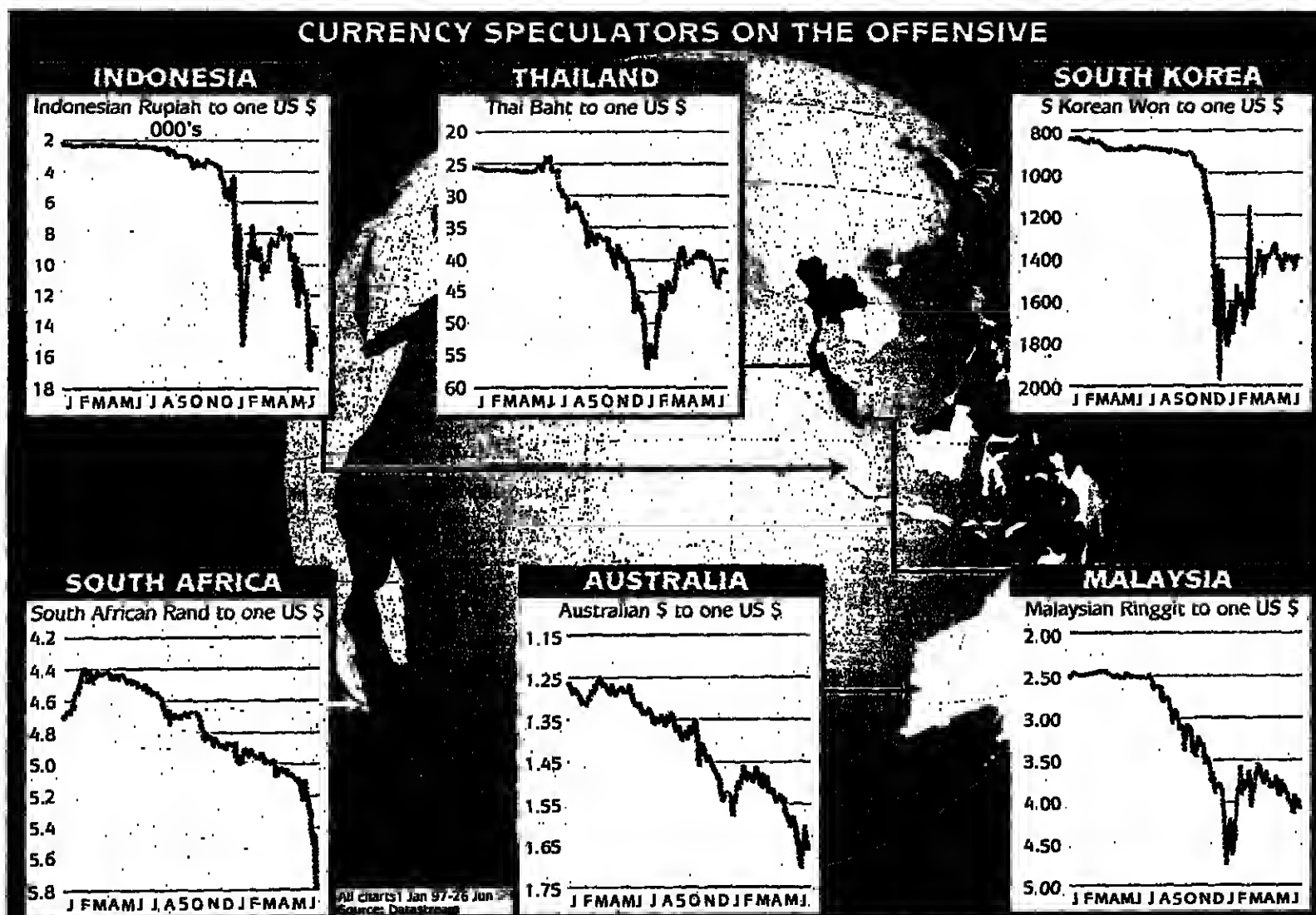
ON 2 JULY 1997, the Thai government devalued the baht in the face of intense pressure from currency speculators. By the end of the year, the Indonesian rupiah, the Korean won, the Malaysian ringgit and the Philippine peso had all depreciated by at least 40 per cent. The world at large was forced to face facts - the once-vaunted "tiger" economies of the East were on decidedly shaky ground.

Almost exactly a year on, currency speculators are in the ows again - the Russian rouble is faltering, the Pakistani government devalued the rupee by 42 per cent at the weekend, and the South African rand yesterday hit an all-time low, at 6.155 to the dollar. Are we about to see a second, perhaps more widespread, round of devaluations? And what, if anything, can the authorities do to stave off the speculators?

The amount of money traded on the world's foreign exchange markets is nothing short of phenomenal. Harry Shutt, in his newly-published book *The Trouble with Capitalism*, estimates that the daily volume of business on the world's currency markets stood at around \$1,500bn in 1995, a figure which exceeds the annual gross domestic product of all but three of the world's economies.

As a result, currency speculators have immense power. When the markets become convinced that a country's currency is fundamentally undervalued, as recently has been the case in South Africa, there is little the authorities can do to avert a currency collapse.

Notwithstanding the Malaysian Prime Minister's view that the markets' attack on the ringgit was a Jewish conspiracy aimed at the Far East, most experts are now convinced that last year's Asian devaluations were inevitable, given the fundamentals. In its recently published 1997 annual report, the Asian Development Bank argues that globalisation, and the consequent rapid inflow of capital into



the tiger economies merely "heightened the risks associated with failing to address inappropriate policies, weaknesses in financial sector institutions and problems in corporate and public governance".

Globalisation, and the free movement of capital, may have been a spur to the heady economic growth enjoyed by the region in the early 1990s, but it also opened up the economies to an unprecedented degree of public scrutiny and evaluation. When the bubble burst in Asia, and when investor confidence began to falter, capital flowed out of the region as fast as it had

flowed in just a few months before, and devaluations became inevitable.

A combination of increased globalisation - with the accompanying increase in global scrutiny - and weak economic fundamentals also lies behind the latest round of currency speculation in the emerging markets.

In Russia, the rouble yesterday steadied at around 6.22 to the dollar after the government raised interest rates on Friday to 80 per cent from 60 per cent, but analysts were gloomy about the country's long-term prospects. Paul McNamara, emerging markets

economist at Julius Baer Investments, commented: "Policy is king and neither in Asia nor Russia are we seeing any positive steps."

In South Africa, meanwhile, the rand pulled itself off its earlier lows after the central bank raised its repo rate by almost 2 per cent but, as with Russia, experts say the outlook for the economy is negative. The central bank's use of interest rates is predicted to slow economic growth in an already fragile economy, while the fall in the exchange rate is likely to fuel inflation.

There has also been pressure on the Australian dollar, where economists are predicting that the Asian crisis will continue to hit growth. In Pakistan, meanwhile, the reasons for the currency slide are also economic in nature, albeit of a slightly different variety. Most experts have been attributing the weakness in the rupee to the economic sanctions imposed on Pakistan in the wake of its nuclear tests.

But although economic fundamentals would seem to provide the reasons for the latest bout of speculative attacks, they do not fully explain the timing. The markets have known about the weaknesses in certain of the emerging markets for

some time. So why has the speculation started now? The answer here lies in the Japanese economy, and in particular in the recent bout of weakness in the Japanese yen.

David Brickman, international economist at PaineWebber, explained: "The weakness in the yen has changed the attitude to risk in the global currency markets. There has been a flight to quality, and the markets have begun to reassess the weaker economies." Ask the experts which of the emerging markets economies are the weakest, and the names South Africa and Russia are on almost everybody's lips.

As it is Japan that lies behind the renewed attacks by the currency speculators, so it is Japan that will determine how far the latest slump in emerging market currencies will go.

If the yen depreciates rapidly, the signs are that China will devalue the yuan. And if China devalues, this is likely to spark not only another round of devaluations in the East, but also sharp falls in global stock markets. Further emerging market gloom will also hit export demand in the developed countries, re-awakening fears of a world-wide slowdown.

It is this spectre of Chinese devaluation that prompted the US Federal Reserve to intervene in the world currency markets 10 days ago in an attempt to stem the rapid fall in the yen. The apparent success of the US intervention - the yen has not rallied but neither has it gone into free-fall - seems surprising, given the funds the currency speculators have at their disposal.

Most analysts attribute this to a mixture of nervousness in the markets, which believe that there may be no ceiling on the Fed's willingness to intervene and buy up the yen, and, perhaps more significantly, to the signals the intervention sent to the speculators. Some believe the West is now committed to rescuing the Japanese economy - and that Japan is committed to making the necessary reforms.

In sum, depreciation in the South African rand and the Russian rouble may be inevitable, given the power of the currency speculators, the renewed risk-aversion in the markets and the weak economic fundamentals.

What is less clear is whether a devaluation in the yuan is inevitable, at least in the near-term. Policymakers the world over hope that co-ordinated central bank intervention combined with rapid and wide-ranging structural reforms in Japan will be sufficient to stave off the speculators. If it is not, the economic consequences may be nothing short of disastrous.

IN BRIEF

MPC 'needs industry input'

THE GOVERNMENT came under pressure yesterday to appoint a representative of the manufacturing industry to the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England.

Leaders of the engineering industry argued that not one of the members of the MPC, which sets interest rates, had experience of manufacturing. The Engineering Employers' Federation is thought to be generally sympathetic, but a source pointed out that all of the current members of the committee were independent of any section of industry.

Levertton pay-off

ROGER LEVERTON, the former chief executive of St Helen's-based glassmaker Pilkington who was ousted last year to make way for Italian industrialist Paolo Scaroni, received a £330,000 compensation package, to annual accounts show. Mr Levertton, who was also paid a base salary of £150,000 until he resigned, has been granted a provision of £1m towards his pension fund.

Mixed picture

CONSUMER CREDIT grew strongly in May, according to oew economic data, with net lending up by £1.3bn, more than expected. However, other figures yesterday painted a more sluggish picture. June growth in M0, the narrow measure of money, was weaker than expected at 0.2 per cent month-on-month.

No alarm at Toad

TOAD, the car-alarm company, will return to the black in the current half-year after doubling turnover to £2m and halving losses to £2.1m in the year to 31 March. Toad announced a £2m contract with Royal & Sun Alliance, and two more acquisitions, paying £750,000 for Foxguard and £90,000 for the UK arm of Code Alarms.

OFT's powers

A WARNING that too few businesses are aware of the sweeping new powers in the Competition Bill was issued yesterday by John Bridgeman, the Director-general of Fair Trading.

Mr Bridgeman, who will have the authority to ban anti-competitive practices, raid company premises and impose fines, said he was preparing a major information campaign to explain the new bill which becomes law in autumn 1999. He was speaking as the OFT's annual report was published, showing a 3 per cent increase in consumer complaints to 861,456.

New issues stir

THE NEW issues market has come back to life in the second quarter of this year after two years in the doldrums, according to a KPMG Corporate Finance survey. The survey showed that 31 companies which have joined the London Stock Exchange since the beginning of April raised a total of £2.7bn. Thomson Travel Group's £1.7bn placing in May gave the market its biggest boost.

Japan's business morale slumps

AT THE BEGINNING of a crucial week for the Japanese economy, a key survey revealed yesterday that morale among businesses has slumped to its lowest level for four years.

But the quarterly tankan report, published by the Bank of Japan, was less dismal than expected and the results had the effect of boosting the stock exchange and easing pressure on the embattled yen.

Unsurprisingly - coming a fortnight after the government's first official acknowledgement that Japan has entered a recession - the BOJ's so-called "diffusion index" revealed the most pessimistic outlook since 1994. The index - the percentage of major manufacturers who are positive about business conditions, minus the proportion of those who are suffering hardship -

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Tokyo

sank to minus 38 in June, compared to minus 31 three months earlier.

Informal polls among economists in Tokyo had predicted a figure as low as minus 44 and, after the tankan's announcement early yesterday morning, the Nikkei Stock Average rose by 155.69 points to close at 15,365.73, a gain of 1 per cent.

The yen recovered from an early slide to trade at around 142 to the dollar in mid-afternoon, a little above its level at the end of last week. "The June figures are better than expected because executives expect the 17 trillion yen (¥22bn) stimulus plan to invigorate the economy," said Maki Fukushima, senior analyst with Nikko Research Centre in Tokyo.

The markets have also been cheered by the announcement on Friday that the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank (LTCB), whose share price sank to 50 yen last week, is to merge with Sumitomo Trust and Banking Corp.

The terms of the deal, which effectively amounts to a takeover of LTCB by Sumitomo, are still vague, but the agreement has succeeded in heading off a possible nightmare scenario - the bankruptcy of LTCB, potentially triggering further banking collapses.

On Thursday, the Policy Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is due to come up with details of the "bridge bank" which will tackle the problem of bad loans, estimated to total 77 trillion yen. The new institution will be able to take over the assets of ter-

minally ill banks and continue to provide loans to creditworthy borrowers who would otherwise face a credit crunch.

"A lot depends on the Thursday meeting," says a foreign finance official in Tokyo. "If they can clean up the bad loans in a decisive, confident move, that could bring the dollar back down and everything would become more comfortable. I think it will work, but I wish I was more confident."

The tankan survey revealed a sharp difference in confidence between small or medium-sized companies who face a grim future, and big firms which are looking forward to the effects of fiscal spending programmes promised by the Japanese government over the past few months.

Among smaller manufacturing companies, the BOJ

recorded an index of minus 49, down from minus 38 in March and the lowest level since May 1975 at the height of the oil price shock. Among non-manufacturing companies the distinction was even more pronounced - morale among big firms actually rose from minus 30 to minus 28, while for smaller companies it fell from minus 37 to minus 42.

"The difference in business climate between major companies and smaller ones has become clearer," said Shosaku Murayama, the BOJ's head of research and statistics.

"The government's comprehensive economic stimulus measures have brought about positive impacts on the business confidence of the major companies, but smaller ones cannot have an optimistic view," said Mr Murayama.

South Korea shuts down ailing banks

SOUTH KOREA closed one-fifth of its banks yesterday and prepared to transfer their business to stronger rivals, trying to limit disruption to its financial system at the risk of alienating foreign investors.

Five of 26 banks were shut - Daedong, Dongnam, Dongha, Kyunggi and Chung Chong. Together they account for 7.3 per cent of all Korean bank loans. Seven larger banks, including Hanil and Cho Hung, were given a month to shape up or face a similar fate. The clean-up cost for a banking system throttled by bad loans could reach \$107bn (£64bn).

"The myth that Korean banks never die is over," said Jason Yu, a banking analyst at Indosuez W I Carr Securities in Seoul. "Complete closure would

have been better. This solution is a form of disguised support."

The government has earmarked 17.5 trillion won to buy bad loans, aiming to cushion the impact on acquirer banks and prevent a run on deposits that could destabilise the economy.

The shotgun mergers drew criticism from foreign investors, who are not convinced that the finances of the acquirer banks won't deteriorate. "Forcing good banks to merge with weak ones reduces the health of the Korean banking system to its lowest common denominator," said Tim Julien, portfolio manager at Mercantile Mutual Investment Management in Sydney.

Bank reform is the centrepiece of Korea's efforts to shake off its first recession in 18 years.

20SHARES									
High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low	Open	Close	High	Low
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES									
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A tasty pasta snack for PizzaExpress at £6m

1

SPORT

Strait-jacketed Keegan totters on gangplank

HE'S DONE it again. In the same week that he put the mockers on England against Romania, Kevin Keegan did exactly the same to Nigeria on Sunday night.

If I was a Fulham supporter, I'd top myself now before the new season gets underway because the manager believes that "Nigeria play football the way I think it should be played!" And this was said after they'd already conceded the first goal to Denmark. When they were 4-0 down Keegan must have had to keep his delirium in check with a strait-jacket.

I can see Kev's first day of training back at Craven Cottage now. "I want the defence to be naive, the midfield to be non-existent and the attack to be powder-puff. But as

STAN HEY

VIEW FROM THE ARMCHAIR



long as you do a few tricks on the hall I'll be well chuffed and so will the crowd."

Keegan also emphasised the value of the family spirit which Nigeria brought into the game, and their preference for praying together. "Very important that family spirit," he purred, despite all the evidence in front of him that this par-

ticular family was more like the Simpsons than the Osmonds. Only when it became obvious that the Super Eagles were not "soaring as expected" did Keegan retreat down the gangplank he had built for himself.

"How many times have we seen two balls on the field in this World Cup, Brian?" he asked, finally posing the question that millions of viewers had on their lips as the match ball was returned from the stands with the game already back in play. I'll leave Skinner and Baddiel to revive the punch line to that one. They can also have Keegan's "joke" about "Taribo West sounds as though he's a place in Florida".

To be fair, as Big Ron says whenever he's not about to be, Keegan's

instinct to rush into judgement is obviously symptomatic of the pressure on the pundits to commit themselves now that the knock-out stages are underway. The finality inherent to each match means that they can no longer hedge their bets on ifs and buts. They have to say who's going to win and suffer the consequences like the rest of us.

Ally McCoist, for instance, thought that Brazil were "brilliant" in the first half against Chile, even though they were gifted their three goals by a nervous defence. But once Brazil were genuinely brilliant in the second half, with Ronaldo scoring one goal and being close to another two, this left Ally nowhere to go, hut down a blind alley. Equally on Sunday

Alan "I'm here to have doubts" Hansen, rubbished the French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez and pointed to their absence of strikers. A couple of hours later, Barthez hadn't been beaten and the French had scored their 10th goal in four matches. "Italy will beat them now," Hansen said with a scowl, putting himself into further jeopardy for later in the week.

If the pressure from the studio experts is showing, the commentators are cracking up already. David Pleat, who pitches his sentences with a rising intonation in order to suggest excitement, is starting to gush like a burst pipe. He has picked out Brazil's Junior Baiano for "having the worst feet, in the nicest possible way, in the team."

On Sunday Paraguay had a defender who "dissolved that problem immediately". Indeed such was Pleat's passion for the Paraguayans that it wouldn't be a total surprise to see a few of them turn up at White Hart Lane next season, and I don't mean playing the pan pipes outside.

They had got their tactics spot on, according to Pleat, by "setting out their stall", in the fashion of a French lorry drivers' hockage. While this may have been a whizz for all the watching coaches, especially those connected with the Spurs defence, it reduced the spectacle to a one-way street as far as the football was concerned.

Fortunately, after two goalless draws and a win donated by Nige-

ria's Second XI, Paraguay got what their negative tactics deserved. As indeed did Nigeria for deliberately chucking their third game in order to get Spain out of the competition. (Oh, all right then, I backed Spain at 14-1, so I'm entitled to moan).

In fact, this moral undercurrent to the way the football is going could be the best form of guide of all, if only the pundits care to look for it.

Apart from the fate of Nigeria and Paraguay, France's scare was plainly down to Zidane's Saudi stomp, while Norway's exit came because their tactics were to bore the opposition to defeat. This can only be good news for squeaky clean England against the Hands of Sod tonight. But don't quote me.

New faces and a new dawn for Britain

European Cup athletic success erases the memories of a miserable year

By Mike Rowbottom in St Petersburg

BRITAIN'S TEAM members strolled along the sun-lit Nevsky Prospect here yesterday without the appearance of a care in the world. They had earned their moment in the sun with their efforts of the weekend which had retained the men's European Cup for the first time in Britain's history and secured the women's place in the Super League of Europe.

After all the doubt and misery of the last eight months, which left many of these chatting sightseers owed substantial amounts of money following the financial collapse of the British Athletic Federation, the events here this weekend were especially sweet.

A team who included 18 debutants in this event achieved their success despite widespread predictions that they would fail to match the performance of last year in Munich, when Linford Christie - in what was his last hoorah before retiring - accepted the trophy into British hands for the first time since he had been summarily chosen as captain to perform the same duty at Gateshead in 1989.

"It's like a phoenix rising from the flames," Max Jones, Britain's performance director, said. "This is the sort of success that attracts youngsters to the sport because they want to be involved in success. We would now like to carry on winning this competition and we are also aiming to win both the men's and women's event in the same year."

The next opportunities to achieve that ambition will come in Paris next year and, the year after that the place where Britain's European Cup fortunes first prospered spectacularly, Gateshead.

Jones, who is responsible for overseeing the direction of National Lottery funding to British athletics is convinced that this weekend's success has come as a result of the much-criticised system of becoming properly functional.

"It's great for the team and the sport," he said. "We are seeing an immediate effect of Lottery funding. In

the last few months we have over had better support in terms of communication and finance."

His words appear to be borne out by the experience of some of the lesser known names, whose ability to rise to the occasion was identified by Britain's team captain Roger Black as one of the key factors in the success.

Nathan Morgan, for instance, the 19-year-old long jumper from Leicester who marked his debut with a highly creditable third place, has been able to give up full-time working for two years thanks to Lottery help - and, it should be said, assistance from the sport's unofficial patron, Eddie Kulukundis.

The 30 hours a week spent working in grocery stores have been a thing of the past and earlier this year Morgan, the man whom Jones identified as the man most likely to break Lynn Davies' 30-year-old British record, benefited from a spell of warm weather training in Florida with his coach, Darryl Bunn.

This weekend is likely to stand as a landmark in the career of Morgan and other young talents such as his 20-year-old friend Ben Challenger, and the 21-year-old steeplechaser Ben Whitby.

However Britain's success has presented Jones and his fellow selectors with several potential problems. Now that Britain has qualified for the lucrative World Cup event in Johannesburg on 11-13 September by finishing in the top two places here, there will be some awkward electoral judgements to be made when several experienced competitors who missed this competition through injury return to fitness - notably Steve Backley, the European javelin champion and Steve Smith, the Olympic high jump bronze medalist.

But this - in football managers' parlance - is a good problem to have. Where Jones may hit more difficult territory is the matter of encouraging athletes to compete in all the forthcoming events of a madly



Roger Black, the Great Britain captain, leads the celebrations after their European Cup victory in St Petersburg

crowded fixture list. The World Cup starts on the same day as the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, and although the athletics does not begin there until the following week, it is likely to present a difficult choice for some athletes.

"Colin Jackson booked his flight to Johannesburg and on to Kuala Lumpur five months ago," Jones said. "But guys like Colin in the explosive sprint events are likely to suffer a lot less than the endurance athlete."

"This is a matter of great concern to us. We know it could be a problem but there will not be a three line whip where we will say 'you must go to the World Cup'."

"Athletes will have different opinions of what is more important in their careers - the Commonwealth or the World Cup. But we will do all in our power to help those who want to combine the event. We are proposing to offer warm weather

training for those athletes who need to acclimatise after competing at the European Championships in Budapest in August.

"We know that not everyone has allowed for the World Cup, so there is a compromise there. But I do not expect us to have a weakened team in Johannesburg."

Woodward said: "I have spoken with Kevin and he is a definite potential for the World Cup and the 30 or 35 players I intend getting together. He has done what Neil Black did when he was suspended, used the period well for fitness work, and I will certainly hold nothing against him in terms of England squads."

Walter Little, the All Black centre, has reportedly turned down a lucrative offer to play in England with Wasps and instead agreed new terms with the New Zealand Football Union and his club North Harbour.

Ferrari applause led by Irvine

MOTOR RACING

BY DERICK ALLSOP
in Magny-Cours

ITALIAN SPORT has good reason to be gloating: extraordinary success for their tirs on bikes, a quarter-final place in the World Cup and the first Ferrari one-two triumph in Formula One for eight years.

Whether or not Cesare Maldini's charges are still actively involved come the final, on Sunday week, the nation has been promised more jubilation that day Eddie Irvine, whose selfless drive provided Michael Schumacher with the opportunity to take command of the French Grand Prix here, predicts the same again at Silverstone.

McLaren-Mercedes are in need of remedial treatment in the British Grand Prix and not unreasonably expect to have a performance advantage on home ground. However, Irvine unequivocally forecasts: "Michael will destroy the McLarens at Silverstone."

The Ulsterman's optimism is based on Ferrari's sustained improvement, their reliability, their strategic acumen and above all the brilliance of Schumacher. The German now trails Mika Hakkinen, a frustrated third here by six points and heads David Coulthard, an exasperated sixth here, by 14 points.

The British Grand Prix is one of only two regular races (the other being Australia) Schumacher has not won. Should he now equal Nigel Mansell's career total of 31 victories McLaren would surely fear the worst. Irvine, for one, believes the championship trend is now unstoppable.

"McLaren have missed the boat and now it's ours," he said. "That's the way I see it. I said before this race Michael was going to win and he did. And we're going to get better."

"Silverstone will be more of a race, but he'll put them in the shade. They may be quicker in qualifying but when it comes to the race there's only one winner. It's the difference between quality and the rest."

Irvine's quality, as well as his conduct, has been questioned over the years but his dutiful support of the team's No 1 is earning him new admirers and could arm Schumacher with decisive weaponry.

"I feel I'm getting more credit than in the past," he said. "People just don't realise how good Michael is. It can demotivate you when you see what he's doing. You either lie down or keep working at it. I don't want to lie down. I want to beat him. So finishing second is no big deal. He was pushing and I wasn't. The championship for me is over. I won't win it."

"We've made a lot of progress and still need some improvements before we're 100 per cent competitive with McLaren everywhere. We're not going to stop working. The gap is not so big and we can beat them on strategy."

Coulthard reluctantly accepts nothing short of victory at Silverstone will resuscitate his championship prospects after falling foul of fate for three consecutive races.

"This is the big one for me," the Scotsman said. "In pure racing terms I guess you have to say I've got to win. I need to send out the right message to everyone else. The one thing I mustn't do is start thinking luck's run out on me. The worst thing I can do is to feel sorry for myself. I have to keep in a positive frame of mind. I don't want people to get the impression I am a whinger."

"I'm still going to be in there fighting. Five got only one win and want more. I'm not going to back off. I want to show I can win races again and I don't think things are beyond me."

Bridge too far looms for England's infantry

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT
in Cape Town

IT MAY be the age of the whistle-stop tour, but this is almost certainly the last time England will engage in a southern hemisphere itinerary of such Herculean proportions. Not even the All Blacks, notorious gluttons for rugby punishment, can quite understand how Twickenham's gin and tonic brigade came to accept a schedule that condemned the poor bloody infantry of the national team to a jet-lagged visit to South Africa at the far end of a un-

precedentedly vicious six-match stint in Australia and New Zealand.

According to John Hart, the All Black coach, England have saddled themselves with "an awfully big ask". As he weighed up the pros and cons of his side's 30-point victory over the tourists in Auckland at the weekend, he questioned the logic behind this last leg of the summer sojourn by saying: "I can only think that an administrative blunder has occurred. South Africa is never anything other than a massive test of a nation's rugby resources and to make this sort of trip for a Test without the benefit of a warm-up match or even adequate preparation time

is an interesting move, to say the least."

Not to put too fine a point on it, those Marco Polos responsible for the most taxing England programme in living memory should forget all about henching out into the travel business and stick to pumping up rugby halls. Senior England figures have privately voiced their intense dissatisfaction with a schedule that not only exposed them to a one-off Test in Australia without the benefit of a warm-up, but also to a five-match New Zealand leg that could hardly have been more labour intensive.

And now they must play the

Springboks, fresh from a 90-point obliteration of the Welsh, within five days of making a desperately convoluted flight from Auckland to Cape Town via Hong Kong. "The match is on the books, so we'll make the best of it," promised Clive Woodward, the England coach, who has already taken steps to erase a similar southern hemisphere adventure from next year's schedules. "It's a matter of shrugging off the jet-lag over a couple of days and then putting together as much as possible in the space of two training sessions."

To my mind, South Africa are currently playing the most formidable rugby of any nation in the

world, irrespective of the positives we were able to take from the second Test with the All Blacks, the Springboks' performance against Wales brought us back to earth with a splat. We on the coaching staff are not Merlins and we aren't in a position to cojure up miracles. We know the measure of the task we face this weekend."

Clive Woodward has told Bath's Kevin Yates, two weeks away from completing a six-month ban for ear-biting that he could still figure in England's World Cup squad next year. Woodward has also indicated that Josh Lewsey, Jos Baxendell, Tom Beir, Rob Fidler and Pat Sanderson

- the handful of players who can be deemed successes on the current tour - are similarly in contention.

Woodward said: "I have spoken with Kevin and he is a definite potential for the World Cup and the 30 or 35 players I intend getting together. He has done what Neil Black did when he was suspended, used the period well for fitness work, and I will certainly hold nothing against him in terms of England squads."

Home challenge: Britain's favourite son surges to the quarter-finals while hope runs dry in the women's competition

Henman proves Rafter's master

BY JOHN ROBERTS

THE CENTRE Court crowd was able to afford a chuckle at the gathering grey clouds yesterday evening, secure in the knowledge that Tim Henman was not only the first man through to the quarter-finals, but had accomplished the feat for a third consecutive year. Moreover the 23-year-old from Oxford will be confident that he can improve on past defeats by the American Todd Martin, in 1996, and Germany's Michael Stich a year ago.

Yesterday, playing with an assuredness which has tended to desert him at other times this season, Henman defeated the Australian Pat Rafter, 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-2. Rafter, it will be remembered won the United States Open title last September, defeating Britain's Greg Rusedski in the final.

Not only does Rafter have a fairly similar serve and volley style to Henman's, but he was seeded six places above him for this tournament at No 6. If anything, Rafter would be regarded as the more athletic of the two, and although he had to take an injury time out for treatment to his back early in the fourth set, the 26-year-old Queenslander performed with gusto for the majority of the contest.

The match began in extraordinary circumstances in that blue skies and a few fluffy white clouds were overhead. Henman responded to the conditions by serving masterfully throughout the opening set, his loss untroubled by a tricky breeze.

He broke Rafter for 5-3 with a glorious service return, delivering a backhand pass down the line that left Rafter gasping. Although the Briton was taken to deuce when serving for the set—conceding three of only six points be allowed off his deliveries—he had taken the lead after only 28 minutes.

Ominous grey clouds returned for the second set, but Henman continued to dominate the early games, breaking for 3-2 with a neat angled forehand half-volley. Serving for the set proved more difficult on this occasion, however, and there were signs that Henman's serve was beginning to waver. He double-faulted twice in being broken back for 5-5, a success which gave Rafter heart to level the match.

When it came to the tie-break Henman found himself 5-2 down. Rafter beating him with a backhand pass and a backhand volley. Although Henman took the next point, when Rafter directed a half-volley over the baseline, the Australian would not be denied, converting his first set point.

passing Henman with a backhand service return across the court for 7-3.

British fears of an anticlimax were calmed when Henman made fairly comfortable work of the third set once he had saved to break points after cracking Rafter for 2-0. Rafter saved one set point when serving at 5-3, but was unable to hold Henman back in the next game, which was settled by an ace.

Rafter handicapped himself by double-faulting to lose the opening game of the fourth set, evidently beginning to feel the twinges that forced him to call for the trainer, who almost tied the Australian into a knot in an endeavour to ease the condition.

Henman did his opponent a favour by double-faulting to lose the next game. The Briton also showed characteristic sportsmanship in conceding the final point of the next game after Rafter's serve had been called out by the linesman. The Briton simply walked to his chair, acknowledging that the game was over. Henman was confident enough in his own game to break for 3-2, at which point he took a break to visit the bathroom. He returned to save a break point with an ace off a second serve.

Rafter's resistance began to evaporate after that, and he netted a backhand volley from a service return to go 2-5 down. Having had time to calm himself during the changeover, Henman returned to the court to advance to the last eight, converting the match point by forcing Rafter to miss with a low forehand volley across the court.

One or two unaccustomed names are vying to join Henman in the quarter-finals. One of them will be either Francisco Clavet of Spain, a 29-year-old ranked No 36, or the Italian Davide Sanguinetti, ranked No 65, who meet in the fourth round.

Pete Sampras defeated Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, 6-3, 7-6, 7-6, to find his path to the quarter-finals blocked by a qualifier. Sebastian Grosjean, a 20-year-old from Marseilles, ranked No 117 in the world, had seen off Felix Mantilla, the Spanish No 16 seed, 6-0, 7-6, 6-2.

"He's a qualifier who has won three matches, so at this point he's confident," Sampras said. "I practised with him one time, in Paris. Anyone that's still around in the second week is playing well, and I'm sure he'll be hungry to beat me. But I feel like I'm playing well."

Sampras's match against Enqvist took one hour and 53 minutes spread over three days. They started warming up to play on Friday but did not make it to the court before rain curtailed play. Sampras led



Tim Henman serves on his way to victory in four sets over Pat Rafter yesterday

Robert Hallam

on Saturday, 6-3, 5-6, 15-0. There was no play on Sunday, and when play resumed yesterday, Sampras secured the second set in a tie-break, 7-4.

The score stood at 4-4 in the third set when rain once again sent the players back to the locker-rooms for two and a half hours. Both players had plenty of time to rue missed chances. Sampras had two break points in the third game and another in the fifth. Enqvist

had three opportunities in the sixth game.

Only two minutes after play resumed, Enqvist having held his serve to love to lead 5-4, the line judges were changed, much to the crowd's amusement. Events took a serious turn for Sampras in the 12th game, when he had to save three set points before forcing the tie-break, which he won, 7-4, with a backhand volley on his second match point.

"It was a long, long weekend," Sampras said. "I never had a match last three days. It's an emotional roller-coaster. It was kind of weird yesterday, having a day off when it was a nice day, sitting on the match for a day, but they don't play on middle Sunday."

"The rain delays are tough for everybody. The locker-room is packed with players, and also with the over-35s and over-45s. There is a room downstairs

where I spend most of my time. You just shoot the you know what and just hang out. You watch golf on television, or whatever."

When Sampras said he did not play cards or other games, he was told by a reporter that Bjorn Borg used to play games in the locker-room, "Video games and stuff."

The champion reflected for a second. "That must have worked," he said.

Smith not able to raise her game

BY GUY HODGSON

IF IT was a surprise to see a British woman in the second week at Wimbledon the sense of shock did not linger. It needed only 53 minutes for Sam Smith, the heroine of People's Saturday, to go out on dark, dark Monday.

Smith, the first British woman to defeat a former champion at Wimbledon since 1977 when she beat Conchita Martinez in the third round, succumbed limply 6-3, 6-1 to France's Nathalie Tauziat. The match was every bit as one-sided as the scoreline suggests.

The bravura of Saturday, when she forced Martinez into a sequence of errors, was replaced by a brittle British No 1 whose shots were consistently short of the lines. She was asking her opponent to belt them past her and Tauziat, the 16th seed, duly obliged, breaking Smith six times.

If the crowd had been more behind her Smith might have been able to fortify her faltering play but the support she received was every bit as tentative as her game. Court One was only three-quarters full and if there was a wall of encouragement it came from a Tauziat fan, whose lone voice managed to drown out everyone else. She did not need to shout very loud.

"She never really let me get in the match so that the crowd could get behind me," Smith, 26, said. "She takes the return so early that you feel she is on top of you. She takes your pace and throws it back at you."

Her consolation will be a place in the world's top 60 and invitations to tournaments which barely knew her name a week ago. "I know I can live with these players now," she said. "If I can play against players in the top 30 consistently I will learn quickly."

Serena Williams had no illusions about being in England. "Two days of rain," she said, "and I'm out of there," which proved to be optimistic. Seven days of rain and she was out of the championship, laid low by the greasy courts.

Williams, the world No 20 and the younger part of the most famous tennis sisters since Elaine and De Layed Play, injured her left calf sliding round Court 18 yesterday and succumbed to Spain's Virginia Ruano-Pascual. Which, if nothing else, was a painful way to solve a test of family loyalty.

Oracene Williams, the mother of Serena and Venus, tries to involve herself in her daughters' careers as much as possible. Even with a broken ankle, courtesy of a fall downstairs on the eve of the championships, she has been wheeled from court to court, providing parental support which would have proved tricky if both girls had made it to the last 16.

Venus versus Serena would have been a delight for us — if a little difficult in the identification department — but a nightmare for Mrs Williams.



Nathalie Tauziat consoles Sam Smith after her fourth-round defeat

Who do you support, the younger because she is the baby or the leader because she has more chance of winning the title? Thankfully the issue was resolved by a slip of a girl.

Serena fell by the wayside, injured herself and retired at 7-5, 4-1 in her opponent's favour. In some you would have wondered whether the strain was due to the scoreline but as Williams had just won her first game of the second set you had to give her the benefit of the doubt. Indeed she was so disappointed she failed to shake hands at the end.

"My I forgot," the 16-year-old said when she was reminded of this. "I guess I wasn't... I didn't realise. I didn't. Wow." You got the impression the oversight was not on purpose.

The disappointment on the day her sister made their provisional appointment with a 6-3, 6-4 win over fellow-American Chanda Rubin was rock-solid genuine. "I definitely thought I was going to do well this year," she said, "and in the future I see myself as a champion."

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario could be back on Centre Court soon if she continues in her current vein of form. Twice the runner-up, she appeared to be going out when she was one set down and 4-1 down against Magdalena Grzibowska in the second round, but this morning she is in the last 16 after beating Austria's Sylvia Pliskke 7-5, 6-2.

Sanchez Vicario, the French Open champion, is a woman you would stake your life on if you had to pick anyone to get the ball back, but sadly she is not always able to retrieve a sentence out of the babble. True, English is not her first language but some idiot taught her the expression "you know" and she uses it with murderous effect. "I feel, you know, in good shape so I think that's probably important, to come, especially to grass, and probably, you know, once I start moving my legs better, then I play better, you know."

You know it has been a Wimbledon wrecked by the weather when you notice these things. You know.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AT WIMBLEDON

MEN'S SINGLES

Holder: P Sampras (US)
Third round
T Martin (US) bt A Woodbridge (Aus) 6-4 4-6 7-6 6-4
P Sampras (1) (US) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 6-3 7-6 7-5
S Grosjean (Fr) bt F Mantilla (1) (Sp) 6-0 7-6 6-2
F Clavet (Sp) bt T Johansson (Swe) 7-6 6-3 6-3
G RANDEVIC (1) (Cro) bt D Vacek (Cz Rep) 6-7 7-6 6-3 6-4
D Sanguinetti (It) bt V Volochkov (Bel) 3-6 6-1 5-7 6-2 6-1
R ROURICER (9) (Neth) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 6-4 7-6 7-6
Fourth round
T HENMAN (1) (GB) bt P Rafter (A) (Aus) 6-3 6-7 6-3 6-2

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Holder: M Hingis (Swt)
Third round
V Ruano Pascual (Sp) bt S Williams (US) 7-5 4-1 retired
Q VAN ROOST (1) (Bel) bt S Appelmann (Bel) 6-1 6-2
A SANCHEZ VICARIO (5) (Sp) bt S Pliskke (Austria) 7-5 6-2
I NIKOLINA (1) (Cz Rep) bt C Morariu (US) 6-3 6-1
V WILLIAMS (7) (US) bt C Rubin (US) 6-3 6-4
S PIRLEA (1) (Rom) bt S De Boer (SA) 6-4 6-4
Fourth round
N TAUZIAT (1) (Fr) bt S Smith (GB) 6-3 6-1
N Zvereva (Bel) bt M Oremans (Neth) 6-4 6-2
L DAVENPORT (2) (US) bt M Serra (Sp) 6-1 6-0
M SELES (6) (US) bt S TESTUD (1) (Fr) 6-3 6-2

MEN'S DOUBLES

Holder: T Woodbridge and M Woodbridge (Aus)
First round
J Gimelstrob and B MacPhie (US) bt B Black (Zim) and R Rensberg (US) 6-1 6-4

T WOODBRIDGE and M WOODBRIDGE (Aus) bt J Burt and J Carbonell (Sp) 6-1 6-4
O JOHNSON and F MONTANA (US) bt D E Safford and C Wilkinson (GB) 6-7 6-2 6-3
T Martin and A O'Brien (US) bt M Tebbutt and P Trancardi (Aus) 7-6 7-5
V KAPELNIKOV (Rus) and D VACEK (Cz Rep) bt N Gould and M Petchey (GB) 6-3 6-0

Second round
N KULT (Swe) and D MACPHERSON (Aus) bt A Kihlstrom (Swe) and P Vizer (Cz Rep) 7-6 6-1
M KNOWLES (Bah) and O NESTOR (Can) bt W Arthur and A Kraatzmann (US) 6-3 6-3
C Haggard and P Roemer (SA) bt N Godwin (SA) and T Ketola (Fin) 6-3 7-6
W BLACK (Zim) and S LARAU (Can) bt L Milligan and A Parnar (GB) 6-2 6-3
S STOLLE (Aus) and C SUK (Cz Rep) bt O Flach and G Van Emburgh (US) 2-6 7-6 6-6
J ELTINGH and P HAARHUIS (Neth) bt J Siemerink and F Wiber (Neth) 6-4 6-2
N BROAD (GB) and P NORVAL (SA) bt K Brash and R Koppisch (Ger) 6-3 4-6 9-7
P GALBRAITH (US) and A STEVEN (NZ) bt N Marques (Por) and T Vornhous (Bel) 6-3 7-5
J DE JAGER and R KOENIG (SA) bt M K GOELLNER and O PRINOSIL (Ger) 7-6 4-6 6-3
M DAMM (Cz Rep) and J GRABR (US) bt J Holmes and A Painter (Aus) 6-4 7-6

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Holder: G Fernandez (US) and N Zvereva (Bel)
First round
M Drake (Can) and L Osterloh (US) bt Y Cho and S Park (Kor) 6-2 7-5
K ADAMS (US) and M BOLLEGERAF (Neth) bt D Jones (Aus) and K Po (US) 6-7 6-2 8-6
E LUKHOMTSEVA (Rus) and A SUZVANA (Japan) bt J Puttin and L Woodroffe (GB) 6-3 6-2
E Callens (Bel) and J Halard-Decugue (Fr) bt A Elwood and N Pratt (Aus) 6-4 6-2
K Kachwendt (Aus) and E Tanakova (Ukr) bt C Smiger (Ger) and H Vilanova (Cz Rep) 6-4
E Kim (Kor) and M Saeki (Japan) bt T Musgrave (Aus) and A Oliza (Pol) 6-0 4-6 6-4

MIXED DOUBLES

Holder: C Suk and H Sukova (Cz Rep)
First round
G Kovacs (Hung) and A Schett (Aus) bt D Randall (US) and H Vilanova (Cz Rep) 6-1 5-7 6-0
J Tarango (US) and E Libonovics (Rus) bt P Nyborz (Swe) and L Horn (SA) 6-2 7-5
L PAGES (Indo) and L NEILAND (Lat) bt T Kemper (Neth) and K Habsudova (Slovak) 6-4 6-3
M SHUPATHI (Indo) and M LUCIC (Cro) bt O Dilluca (US) and S Park (Kor) 7-5 3-6 6-3
Second round
M de Sevede (SA) and D A Graham (US) bt J Lee and Shi-Ting Wang (Tai) 6-0 6-2
L RAYMOND (US) and R STUBBS (Aus) bt N De Villiers (SA) and L McShea (Aus) 7-6 6-3
F LABAT (Arg) and O VAN ROOST (Bel) bt S Krivtchenko (Ukr) and L Pleming (Aus) 6-1 7-5
V RUANO PASCUAL (Sp) and P SUAREZ (Arg) bt A Sidot (Fr) and E Wagner (Ger) 6-4 4-6 6-4
N KUIMUTA and N MIYADI (Japan) bt S Williams and V Williams (US) w/o
M HINGIS (Swt) and I NIKOLINA (Cz Rep) bt S De Boer (SA) and L Lee (US) 6-1 6-1
Second round
M de Sevede (SA) and D A Graham (US) bt J Lee and Shi-Ting Wang (Tai) 6-0 6-2
L RAYMOND (US) and R STUBBS (Aus) bt N De Villiers (SA) and L McShea (Aus) 7-6 6-3
F LABAT (Arg) and O VAN ROOST (Bel) bt S Krivtchenko (Ukr) and L Pleming (Aus) 6-1 7-5
V RUANO PASCUAL (Sp) and P SUAREZ (Arg) bt A Sidot (Fr) and E Wagner (Ger) 6-4 4-6 6-4
N KUIMUTA and N MIYADI (Japan) bt S Williams and V Williams (US) w/o
M HINGIS (Swt) and I NIKOLINA (Cz Rep) bt S De Boer (SA) and L Lee (US) 6-1 6-1

GIRLS' SINGLES

First round
D Hantuchova (Slovak) bt C Mucino (Mex) 7-5 6-3

BOYS' SINGLES

First round
V Masarik (Cz) bt M Pokorsky (Aut) 6-1 6-4
R Brooks (GB) bt T Higgins (GB) 6-1 7-5
Seeds in capitals

Asian tennis tipped for the top

TAMARINE TANASUGARN, of Thailand, is resolutely flying the flag for Asia at Wimbledon, where less than one in 10 of the competitors come from the world's largest continent.

But her moment of glory at Wimbledon could be short-lived, as she now faces top seed Martina Hingis in the fourth round of the women's singles.

Asian players have long dominated the racket sports of table tennis, squash and badminton, but international success in tennis has been more elusive. The addition of tennis to the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games sparked renewed interest in the game and 41 Asian countries are now members of the Asian Tennis Federation.

Kimiko Date and Suzuko Matsuko won hefty media coverage and a devoted following in Japan, but big wins on the circuit always escaped them.

The Indian brothers Vijay and Anand Armitraj delighted crowds throughout the world with some exquisite touch play in the doubles, while Vijay even landed a role in the James Bond film, *Octopussy*.

The one big Asian success story in tennis has been Michael Chang, who won the French Open as a teenager. He may be fêted in Asia but the continent cannot claim him as their own because he was born in New Jersey and is an American citizen.

Tanasugarn's steady progress through the first three rounds at Wimbledon has been decidedly low-key — she has yet to drop a set or give an interview. She is the daughter of an Olympic basketball player, Virachai, who now coaches her. But even her loyalties are divided as she retains dual Thai and American citizenship.

On the men's side of the tournament, there is renewed cause for Indian celebration as Leander Paes — an Olympic bronze medalist — and Mahesh Bhupathi are third seeds in the men's doubles and have not dropped a set so far.

In its latest magazine for the up-and-coming young players on the circuit, the International Tennis Federation asked: "Is Asia to be the Next Big Thing in tennis?"

It felt the jury was still out, but

concluded that: "Considering how Asian players have dominated the other racket sports over the last few decades, you would have to take the possibility very seriously indeed."

John McEnroe's voice resounded around Wimbledon again on Monday — but this time in song, not anger.

Interviewed on Wimbledon's Centre Court in a bid to raise the spirits of the rain-soaked crowds, he finished by bursting into a chorus of "The Star-Spangled Banner".

Fans politely refrained from shouting "You can't be serious" over a tuneless and quavering rendition. Two years ago, fans were treated to an impromptu concert in the rain by veteran British pop star Cliff Richard, with Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver as his backing group.

McEnroe's fiery temperament combined with his brilliant stroke play made him one of the most exciting players of his generation.

He now works as an art dealer and television commentator, and recently said he hopes his own children do not follow in his famous tennis footsteps. But he then added: "If

they are sick and crazy enough to decide they want to be tennis players, then that is their decision."

The British have turned talking about the weather into a national obsession. But despite the unseasonal gloom, Wimbledon referee Alan Mills does not have nightmares about wet weather. And that's official.

Several spectators, following last week's constant rain at Wimbledon, have wanted to know whether Mills, like Noah before him, was thinking of building an Ark — not for animals, but for flooded tennis players.

But the unflappable Mills, who has been the championship referee for the past 16 years, has no such problems. "This year's Wimbledon is by no means as bad as last year, which was my worst," he says.

"The tournament in 1991 was pretty bad as well, and both then and last year we had to play on the middle Sunday. But this year has not been too bad."

"In any case I'm too tired at night to have nightmares. I drink coffee all day and sleep all night. I take each day as it comes."

He sounds just like Glenn Hoddle.

The best may be yet to come from top dog

Dream Well: Still to prove that he is head and shoulder above his contemporaries *Julian Herbert/Allsport*

"My belief is that he would be even better over a longer distance, but we haven't had the chance to attempt it yet. That's what I will suggest to him."

JAMIE OSBORNE and Dean Gallagher, two of the jockeys questioned in January by police

French on sidelines

following a nasty fall at Goodwood on Sunday. The 22-year-old jockey escaped serious injury when his mount, Star Invader, broke a leg 50 yards from the

RESULTS

[illegible]



Warwickshire take evasive action as Nathan Wood, the Lancashire opener, square cuts Neil Smith on his way to 78 at Edgbaston yesterday

Peter Jay

Flintoff stamps his authority

CRICKET
BY MIKE CAREY
at Edgbaston

Warwickshire 374-5 dec & forfeit
Lancashire 339-0 dec & 338-6
Lancashire win by 4 wickets

LANCASHIRE, WITH all their top-order batsmen making solid contributions, defeated Warwickshire with an ease that probably surprised even themselves here yesterday. Needing 336 from what proved to be 96 overs, they got home by six

wickets with nine balls to spare.

On such a good pitch, Warwickshire required rather more inspiration and penetration than their attack could deliver. If, as Brian Lara said in a somewhat unconvincing TV interview recently, he is enjoying the learning experience of leading a county for the first time, he will be feeling more chastened, if slightly more knowledgeable after this.

True, he was unlucky to lose the services of Ed Ciddins, by some measure Warwickshire's

most dangerous bowler, with influenza early in the proceedings. Later, Lara's tactical acumen was severely tested and Lancashire, needing 69 from the last 16 overs, must have been surprised to find field placings that permitted comfortable ones and twos.

By then, Warwickshire's last throw of the dice, on a pitch offering some slow turn, was to have Ashley Giles operating over the wicket into the bowlers' footmarks, a ploy which earned them nothing as Andrew Flintoff, who, making 70

off 95 balls with eight fours and two sixes, all but saw his side home.

From the moment that Mike Atherton and Nathan Wood put on 75 together, it had always looked straightforward. Though Atherton was palpably slow to Douglass Brown going across his stumps, the left-handed Wood batted positively for 63 overs. However, he is as yet not as reliable, at least outside his off stump, as his namesake in *Guns and Dolls*.

When Wood was caught trying to assault Giles, Atherton, as the only other batsman out, found himself pressed into service as a runner for Neil Fairbrother, who was carrying a calf injury. It scarcely affected Fairbrother's immaculate judgement of length, however, and his ability to pick off anything loose was the main feature of a partnership of 70 in 14 overs with John Crawley.

Crawley attracted a lot of bowling, which allowed him to display his fluency off his legs before he was caught behind off an inside edge off the persevering Brown; a rare mistimed

stroke brought Fairbrother's downfall after he had made 50 from 99 balls, but Flintoff batted with a composure beyond his tender years.

He picked up Brown effortlessly for six over midwicket and also struck Graeme Welch a long way over the long-on boundary. Between these exhibitions of sheer power, however, he was highly selective. His first mistake was also his last when he was caught in the deep off Brown, but by then the game was virtually won and lost.

Maynard's enterprise Irani sweep reverses

pays dividends in end Essex's fortunes

BY JON CULLEY
at Trent Bridge

Glam 351-8 dec & forfeit
Nottingham 31-2 dec & 274
Glamorgan win by 46 runs

THE WINNING habit has tended to elude both of these sides this season, more surprisingly in the case of the champions, Glamorgan, who have conceded that a successful defence of their Britannic Assurance title is probably beyond them now.

Against Nottinghamshire, however, everyone has a chance and the bold captaincy of Matthew Maynard ultimately enabled the Welsh county to secure only their second victory in this season's competition and the first since the opening round.

After rain had washed away virtually all of the first two days, enterprise was needed and Maynard's gained its reward eight overs into the last hour, despite a gallant century from Graeme Archer, only the

second by a Nottinghamshire batsman this season.

This was the pay-off for Maynard's decision to forfeit Glamorgan's second innings at stumps on Sunday evening, allowing Paul Johnson's side the whole of the final day to chase 321, which proved enough of a carrot to keep them interested throughout.

Nottinghamshire lost both openers in the first 10 overs as Glamorgan's attack again found help from the pitch and after reaching lunch at 95-3 suffered an appreciable blow to their ambitions when Johnson fell.

Typically, Johnson had given the chase a significant lift by smiting 40 off only 35 balls, including seven boundaries, only for an ill-judged pull to cost him dear, the ball flying off the top edge to Steve James at gully.

Usman Afzaal hung around doggedly, his 51 spanning more than three hours, but although he was finally snared by Adrian Dale and Chris Tolley then

gave his wicket away with a loose glance, the home side were still in the hunt at tea, six down but with 30 overs left to score 131.

The important breakthrough came when a threatening partnership between Archer and the wicketkeeper Chris Read was broken at 55 when Read was caught by Tony Cottee, cleverly placed at leg slip for Darren Thomas.

Cottee was the key figure in the next two dismissals as Nottinghamshire's chance began to fade, running out Evans with a throw from cover point after Archer's poor call and then holding on to a catch at wide third slip to remove Mark Bowen.

Andy Oram, nursing a rib muscle injury sustained on Sunday, appeared as the home side's last line of defence but in the end survived Archer, who completed his first hundred for two seasons with his 12th four but over clipping his second six over square leg edged Thomas to Croft at first slip.

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at Southgate

Middlesex 488-2 & forfeit
Essex 151-3 dec & 315-9
Match drawn

IF MARK Ilett and Peter Such cry off Essex's next Championship match, it will almost certainly be due to a stress-related illness after what Ronnie Irani subjected them to in the gathering gloom yesterday evening. One moment of madness and everything they had all worked towards went out of the window.

There were a paltry 24 runs wanted for what would have been a thrilling victory and 25 balls in which to get them when Irani, with a century to his name, suddenly and inexplicably decided to attempt a reverse sweep.

Perhaps he had been unsettled by the loss one ball earlier of Ashley Cowan. Whatever the reason, he paid for such prodigality and was bowled. It left the delighted bowler Paul Weekes on a hat-trick and the

last man in, Such, with a tricky spell to survive. That he and Ilett hung in there surrounded by voracious fielders was poor consolation, because victory had been there for the taking.

Irani's second hundred in successive matches - his previous one had helped beat Somerset - was uncharacteristically sedate (229 balls with just one six and three fours), and he twice found himself playing second fiddle in a couple of partnerships, first with Stephen Peters, then with Danny Law, who certainly helped swing things Essex's way with a knock of 62 at virtually a run a ball, with the help of five sixes, four of them off Weekes. He and Irani piled up 104 for the seventh wicket. Then it all went wrong.

As expected Middlesex had forfeited their second innings, leaving Essex the whole day and what turned out to be 106 overs from which to conjure the 388 runs needed for victory. That had looked a pretty far-fetched hope when, in the ninth over, with just five runs knocked off the target,

Essex lost their second wicket, Angus Fraser having accounted for the openers, Paul Pritchard and Darren Robinson.

When Paul Grayson was bowled by the pacy Tim Bloomfield, having scratched around for more than an hour for three runs, the Essex run chase was in retreat at 31 for 3. It needed their entire lawman to marshal the resistance and the Australian Stuart Law did just that in a 57-run stand for the fourth wicket after being joined by Irani. As befits a player of Law's quality it needed a high-class effort from Jamie Hewitt running back from wide mid-on before sprawling to take a fine catch.

The stream of class continued to flow from Essex, though, and Peters underlined his potential with a fine half-century as he dominated an 84-run partnership with Irani. There was a touch of symmetry to his departure, the youngest player on either side at 19 by a couple of months from Owais Shah, Peters was snatched up at slip by the oldest - Mike Gatting.

Blackburn swoop for £3m Perez

FOOTBALL
BY ALAN NIXON

ROY HODGSON, the Blackburn Rovers manager, has signed the French right-back Sébastien Perez in a £3m deal, beating off a rival offer from Middlesbrough. Perez, 27, has played more than 100 games in Serie A and has also appeared in the colours of Internazionale, Lucchese and Cesena in Italy. Spurs have been searching for a left-sided defender since they failed to sign Andy Hinchcliffe from Everton.

Celtic's hunt for a new manager continues after Tommy Svensson, the former Swedish national coach, yesterday rejected the club's advances to appoint him as head coach.

Dick Advocaat, the new Rangers manager, has told the forward Marco Negri he can leave Ibrox if the right offer emerges for his services.

Liverpool, too, have signed a French right-back, Eric Sikora from the French champions Lens for £120,000. The 30-year-old defender has been at Lens since he was 12 but has decided to leave despite the club having the most successful year in its history.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, saw Sikora play last season on scouting trips to watch his team-mates, including Marc-Vivien Foe. Sikora arrived on Merseyside yesterday for a medical.

Sikora could be followed to Anfield by the return of Steve Staunton from Aston Villa. The Republic of Ireland international is poised to accept Liverpool's terms rather than Villa's.

In a busy day of transfer activity in the Premiership, Tottenham have completed the signing of the Piacenza defender Paolo Tramezzani for £1.35m. The 27-year-old left-back has played more than 100 games in Serie A and has also appeared in the colours of Internazionale, Lucchese and Cesena in Italy. Spurs have been searching for a left-sided defender since they failed to sign Andy Hinchcliffe from Everton.

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Super League presses ahead

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

SUPER LEAGUE clubs are insisting on a quick decision on News Corporation's offer of a renegotiated TV deal, despite lower division clubs' fears about the creation of a closed shop.

A Super League meeting yesterday issued a unanimous statement saying that the issue of the £50m five-year contract to replace the remaining two years of the EFL deal previously accepted by the game should be considered "entirely separately".

A special meeting of the Rugby League is due to decide on 15 July, but Super League has now given notice that it does not intend to let the issue of automatic promotion to the elite competition complicate the deal.

At the same time, Super League is to issue a document to clubs in the First and Second Divisions reassuring them that the door will be open to any who can "enhance and develop the product". A Super League spokesman, Andrew Whitlam, said: "There was no talk of breakaways and no sabre rattling".

The meeting also backed the complaint of the Super League chairman, Chris Caisley, over the Challenge Cup final being added to the Government's protected list of events that must be shown on terrestrial TV.

Meanwhile, the Rugby League has had talks with the Rugby Football Union about staging the 2000 and 2001 finals at Twickenham when Wembley will be out of commission.

The London Broncos' coach, Tony Currie, has expressed doubts over the club's prospects of enticing the Australian Test scrum-half, Allan Langer, to England next season. "If we were to sign Allan it would be a major coup for us, but I think we will be hard pressed to get him," Currie said.

London are stepping up other recruitment plans, with their chief executive, Tony Rea, checking the form of several northern-based players last weekend.

"There are players in the First Division and on the fringes of Super League sides who we think we could give an opportunity," Currie said.

The Rugby League has agreed a sponsorship for the match between England and Wales at WDS on 19 January. Thomson ESPN will also sponsor the England team.

The Australian Test full-back Robbie O'Davis and his Newcastle Knights team-mate Wayne Richards received maximum 22-match bans from the Australian Rugby League yesterday after returning positive drug tests.

British Assurance County Championship

Somerset v Hampshire

TAUNTON (Day 4 of 4): Somerset (38pts) drew with Hampshire (11pts).
Somerset won toss.
Somerset: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Somerset: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Somerset: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
P R Whitaker c Pearson b Caddick... 72 0 9 155 166
R A Smith c Trescothick b Pearson... 21 0 4 78 69
A N Jones not out... 4 0 1 79 82
A O Micra c Trescothick b Pearson... 0 0 1 10 10
A D James not out... 23 0 4 59 75
Total (for 5, 30 overs)... 350
Fall: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

Warwickshire v Lancashire

EDGBASTON (Day 4 of 4): Lancashire (18pts) beat Warwickshire (4pts) by 4 wickets.
Warwickshire won toss.
Warwickshire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Warwickshire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
N Wood c Sub b Giles... 79 0 8 189 214
M A Atherton bow b Brown... 31 0 4 63 84
D P Crawley c Phipps b Brown... 54 0 5 62 65
N H Fairbrother c Henry b Brown... 50 0 10 116 116
A Parnoff c Giles b Brown... 70 8 9 113 113
G O Lloyd c Phipps b Brown... 30 0 4 40 51
D Austin not out... 12 0 9 16 16
M Wainwright not out... 0 0 0 9 9
Total (for 5, 30 overs)... 338
Fall: 1-72, 2-135, 3-184, 4-234, 5-287.

Leicestershire v Sussex

LEICESTER (Day 4 of 4): Leicestershire (38pts) drew with Sussex (11pts).

Leicestershire won toss.
Leicestershire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Leicestershire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
M G Brown not out... 149 0 8 247 375
N R Taylor c Nelson b Mills... 31 0 8 91 104
P W Jarvis c Nelson b Mills... 12 0 0 22 34
S Hampshire b Lewis... 0 0 0 9 10
R J Hirst c Sutcliffe b Mills... 27 0 2 107 162
J O Leary c Mulhally b Brindson... 0 0 0 8 8
Total (for 5, 30 overs)... 312
Fall: 1-14, 2-20, 3-25, 4-43, 5-132, 6-166, 7-168, 8-285.

Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan

TRENT BRIDGE (Day 4 of 4): Nottinghamshire (20pts) beat Glamorgan (2pts) by 46 runs.
Glamorgan won toss.
Glamorgan: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Glamorgan: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
V J Wells not out... 6 0 0 12 11
D J Mulhally bow b Lewis... 0 0 0 1 4
J Sutcliffe not out... 0 0 0 5 6
Total (for 1, 3 overs)... 6
Fall: 1-2.

Essex v Middlesex

ESSEX (Day 4 of 4): Essex (38pts) drew with Middlesex (11pts).

Essex won toss.
Essex: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Essex: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
P J Richardson c Fraser... 2 0 0 17 11
D J Robinson c Fraser... 2 0 0 18 44
A P Grayson c Bloomfield... 0 0 0 45 66
S G Law c Hawtrey b Weekes... 104 0 0 0 0
R C Iredale b Weekes... 104 0 0 0 0
S G Parnoff c Goring b Tufnell... 59 0 10 89 89
R J Hirst c Tufnell... 0 0 0 22 21
D R Law c Weekes b Tufnell... 0 0 0 0 0
A P Cowan c Shaw b Weekes... 0 0 0 0 0
P M Shaw not out... 0 0 0 0 0
M C Ince not out... 0 0 0 0 0
Total (for 5, 30 overs)... 312
Fall: 1-2, 2-5, 3-31, 4-88, 5-172, 6-186, 7-280, 8-314.

Nottinghamshire v Glamorgan

TRENT BRIDGE (Day 4 of 4): Nottinghamshire (20pts) beat Glamorgan (2pts) by 46 runs.
Glamorgan won toss.
Glamorgan: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Glamorgan: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
V J Wells not out... 6 0 0 12 11
D J Mulhally bow b Lewis... 0 0 0 1 4
J Sutcliffe not out... 0 0 0 5 6
Total (for 1, 3 overs)... 6
Fall: 1-2.

Other Matches

Cambridge University v Kent

CAMBRIDGE (Day 3 of 3): Cambridge won by 3 wickets.
Cambridge University won toss.
Cambridge: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Cambridge: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
C D Walsh bow b Mather... 0 0 0 4 1
J B Hoddley c Garland... 0 0 1 11 23
M J Walker not out... 34 1 6 37 46
N J Long not out... 12 0 19 25 25
Total (for 2, 11.3 overs)... 57
Fall: 1-0, 2-25.
Bowling: D P Mather 5-3-12-1, R Garland 5-0-30-1, O J Eadie 0-5-0-9-0.

Yorkshire v Cambridge University

YORKSHIRE (Day 3 of 3): Yorkshire drew with Cambridge University.

Yorkshire won toss.
Yorkshire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
Yorkshire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.

First Innings Count

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
A N Janich c Middlebrook... 23 0 2 49 61
M J Biles c White b Sherwood... 6 0 1 30 37
J A Cragg c Chapman b Middlebrook... 0 0 26 30
P J Mather not out... 15 0 13 19 19
N G Phipps not out... 14 0 2 9 16
Total (for 5, 30 overs)... 181
Fall: 1-2, 2-30, 3-31, 4-72, 5-122.

County Championship Table

Runs 6s 4s Bbs Mins
Surrey (8)... 8 4 2 2 24 126
Lancashire (11)... 11 4 2 3 11 24 109
Sussex (8)... 8 3 2 3 15 28 100
Durham (17)... 17 3 3 2 15 31 100
Lancashire (10)... 10 3 3 0 5 16 98
Yorkshire (9)... 9 3 2 2 11 23 78
Kent (2)... 2 0 2 2 3 27 91
Gloucestershire (7)... 7 3 3 3 16 83
Glamorgan (11)... 11 2 2 4 18 21 61
Warwickshire (8)... 8 2 2 4 18 79 78
Hampshire (11)... 11 2 2 4 18 79 78
Nottinghamshire (14)... 14 2 2 4 18 79 78
Somerset (12)... 12 2 2 4 18 79 78
Derbyshire (18)... 18 2 2 4 18 79 78
Essex (8)... 8 1 3 4 9 26 63
Nottingham (13)... 13 1 3 4 9 26 63
Northants (15)... 15 1 3 4 9 26 63

Yorkshire v Cambridge University

YORKSHIRE (Day 3 of 3): Yorkshire drew with Cambridge University.

Yorkshire won toss.
Yorkshire: 1-115, 2-235, 3-281, 4-281, 5-287.
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Hampshire (11)... 11 2 2 4 18 79 78
Nottinghamshire (14)... 14 2 2 4 18 79 78
Somerset (12)... 12 2 2 4 18 79 78
Derbyshire (18)... 18 2 2 4 18 79 78
Essex (8)... 8 1 3 4 9 26 63
Nottingham (13)... 13 1 3 4 9 26 63
Northants (15)... 15 1 3 4 9 26 63

England suited to winner takes all

FACING ARGENTINA is over an easy proposition especially with a place in the World Cup quarter-finals at stake but I am more confident about England's chances going into the knock-out stage than I was about the group games. The first phase is cat-and-mouse, you can lose and still go through, and I think our players are better suited to an environment where winner takes all.

For that reason and because of the splendid way we came back to form against Colombia I am feeling very positive about our chances tonight. Last Friday in Lens produced one of the best England displays I have seen in a long time but my con-



RAY WILKINS

fidence is tempered by the respect I hold for our opponents as a footballing nation.

Argentina are capable of beating anyone in the world and have shown so far in this tour-

namment what a well-organised, hard-working outfit they are. They also possess enough individual talent to swing a game their way. In two of their matches they have only done just enough to win but they are capable of raising their game in an instant and the way they steam-rolled Jamaica shows what they are capable of if you give them the time and the space.

The Argentina side that beat us in 1986 probably had greater individual players but this is a better team. That makes it hard for England because with one outstanding individual you can always make contingency plans to snuff him out. With a team of 11, players who are similar in

ability, it becomes more difficult.

I was on the bench for that infamous quarter-final in Mexico City, having been sent-off in the group fixture against Morocco. The view from the dug-out in the Azteca Stadium was not very good and I must admit it wasn't clear to me at the time that Maradona had handled although it soon became obvious from the reaction of the England players out on the pitch that something untoward had happened.

I agree with Glenn Hoddle that we felt more aggrieved at the Tunisian referee that day rather than Maradona. The official was there to do a job and he did not carry it out as he should have done. However

there was no arguing about Maradona's second goal which is up there among the best I have ever seen, to run that distance and beat off the challenge of four or five exceptionally good players was just sensational. When it went in you could only stand and applaud the guy.

We must now forget about the events of 12 years ago and focus in on tonight's game. If we are as resolute in our defensive duties as we were against Colombia then it will take us a long way towards coming out on top and booking a place in the last eight.

We allowed the Colombians to make their 15 passes or so in their own half and concentrated on shutting them down as

soon as they stepped into our half of the field. We stopped balls getting into our back three and cut down on their forward momentum; the biggest difference compared with the performance against Romania when we allowed the likes of Hagi and Ilie too much room to make their passes.

It annoys me when people said we had nothing to beat against Colombia. If they looked useless it was because of the way England set about them. They could not compete with us physically or mentally, tactically or temperamentally and that was a tribute to our lads.

We will obviously have to keep a close eye on the likes of

Batistuta and Ortega, the two obvious match-winners in the Argentine line-up. They tend to leave Ortega spare to fill the spaces around Batistuta and he is quite dynamic when running with the ball, not the terrific pace and strength that hall-marked Maradona's game but very impressive nevertheless.

I also like Veron who is a wonderful passer of the ball and like David Beckham can hit them long and short. Almeyda is their holding midfielder player and all through they are a tremendously disciplined and hard-working side. There will be some fascinating match-ups all over the field and off it as well because both Daniel Passarella

and Glenn Hoddle were magnificent international players.

I don't expect Glenn to do anything different for this game, he named a team to beat Colombia and he will obviously be going out to win this game. It has been suggested that we use man-markers to clamp down on the Argentine dangermen but they are very clever at dealing with that and can drag you all over the place.

Michael Owen will partner Alan Shearer again and hopefully he will have the chance to use his exceptional pace against their back four. Against Colombia Shearer showed that he is coming back to his old self after his terrible injury.

Beating the averages is name of the game

AMONG THE many traps into which a football coach can fall is that of winding up the opposition. "Why did he say these things?" an Argentinian sportswriter asked yesterday about remarks attributed to Glenn Hoddle. "Why does he have to bring up the past?"

The past, of course, is Diego Maradona's fisted goal against England in the 1986 World Cup finals, his claim to divine intervention. One thing leads to another. The past is also Antonio Rattin's wrongful dismissal at Wembley 20 years earlier when England were seriously at risk of losing to Argentina in the quarter-finals.

Hoddle's mistake, not the England coach's first under interrogation, was to elaborate indiscreetly on how he felt as a member of the 1986 England team. "Maybe Hoddle's words were twisted by English reporters but that's not how it seems to our players who have done nothing here to suggest they are cheats," my friend said.

So typical of England's public relations, fuel for a further outbreak of xenophobia in the popular press. Hoddle's imprudent digressions could work against him today in St Etienne where only 2,000 places have been allocated to English supporters.

Considering that their coach, Daniel Passarella, is ranked by many as the most ruthless great defender football has seen, Argentina's behaviour in winning all three group games was impeccable. If aggression in contests for the ball is a prominent feature of Passarella's

Hoddle's imprudent digression could rebound on the three lions against a gifted Argentina today. By Ken Jones

la's instruction, he appears to have kept cynicism at bay, although, as the England scout Dave Sexton points out, they have not yet found themselves up against a crisis.

After watching Argentina twice here and in a warm-up match against the Republic of Ireland shortly before the finals, Sexton thinks them to be a cool, well-balanced team with a strong midfield and plenty of scoring potential. "[Roberto] Ayala is a good organiser in defence, [Juan] Veron passes intelligently and nobody needs to be told that [Gabriel] Batistuta and [Ariel] Ortega are extremely talented attackers," he said.

England's defenders are never more uncomfortable than when exposed to quick-footed thrusts through frontal cover, something they rarely experience in club matches, so the errors of judgement, collective and individual, that were evident even when out-playing Colombia could be fatal if repeated against Argentina. Certainly, it will be essential for Tony Adams, Sol Campbell and Phil Neville to follow the advice of England's greatest defender, Bobby Moore, who stressed the importance of remaining upright when called upon to deal with dribblers and sharp interpassing.

If Argentina are not up to the standards of 1978 and 1986 (the

year when Maradona's game reached a level matched only by Pele) they have gifted individuals, most obviously Batistuta, whose total of four goals puts him one behind Christian Vieri of Italy as the tournament's leading scorer.

An important fact about these finals, at least one that registers with me personally, is that no team, not even the favourites, Brazil, has yet given an impression of special identity. This came up the other day in a conversation I had with Hoddle's predecessor, Terry Venables, whose time presently is divided between television work and getting things in order at Crystal Palace.

Any team that achieves a level of consistency will be the one Venables fancies. "It's reached the stage where nobody can afford to give less than average performance," he said. "There's no longer a parachute. Play well below your best against even ordinary opposition who are prepared to work hard and intelligently and you could be on the way home."

Something like this appeared to be in the air on Sunday when France, troubled clearly by the absence of Zinedine Zidane through suspension, grew so desperate against Paraguay that the odds would have been against them in the penalty shoot-out that was avoided only when Laurent

Blanc scored the World Cup's first golden goal. L'Equipe's banner headline - "La Délivrance" - said it all.

The France coach, Aimé Jacquet, expressed an opinion similar to that of Venables. "It is critical now to show at least average form," he said, "because we must be prepared for bad fortune. We had good opportunities to make two or three goals against Paraguay but through leaving the door open a couple of times we might have lost."

Average is the description most football people here associate with England but nobody should underestimate their natural fortitude. "This has always been strong in their game," Passarella said yesterday, "and it comes into how we are preparing to play them. As England showed in the second half against Romania, even when things are going badly they don't give up."

Last week in Toulouse, an hour or so after the loss to Romania, I came across an objective Londoner who said that he would not back England to win the World Cup with his mother-in-law's money. "Not good enough," he said.

However, if rather too much was made of England's subsequent performance against Colombia they have given Passarella plenty to think about.

As for the cheating slur, Hoddle's by interpretation, Passarella was dismissive. "Perhaps not him but the newspapers," said Argentina's coach, a hard man in control of his emotions but dangerously sensitive to ill-advised provocation.



Three Argentinian players, Sergio Berti (left), Leonardo Astrada (centre) and Marcelo Delgado (right), pile up the laps yesterday in preparation for tonight's second-round game with England in St Etienne

Allez Les Verts, an epic tale of rise, fall and hope

THE SUDDEN ascent to supreme power; corruption and catastrophe; then apocalyptic decline, prison, exile, and death. An epic rise and fall story.

It could be Napoleon, but it is also, in a nutshell, the history of Saint-Etienne, that Napoleon among football teams. Their equivalent to being crowned emperor was when the team marched up the Champs-Élysées, accompanied by some 100,000 delirious supporters, and given the accolade of a speech from the then president of the Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

It was like Bastille Day, with Saint-Etienne representing the cream of the French state, but it was actually 13 May 1976. And that was after they had lost a match, albeit a significant one.

On the night before, Saint-Etienne had gone down to Bayern Munich, 1-0, in the European Cup final at Hampden Park, after hitting the crossbar twice. If only the posts had been round instead of square, the argument goes, the result could have been very different.

It was a moral victory. In any case, it was the best result ever at that stage for a French team in a European competition. Not only did Les Verts top the French league four times in the 1970s, but with their high media profile and, above all, the fanatical following in the Stade Geoffroy Guichard (known as "the cauldron"), they succeeded in boosting both the image and status of French football.

However, if this was their apogee, then the 80s look like Saint-Etienne's nadir. This year they were stuck firmly to the



ANDY MARTIN
AT LARGE IN FRANCE



bottom of the Second Division and only narrowly escaped relegation at the 11th hour into the largely non-professional Third Division. The stadium has been enhanced and expanded, but the crowds have dwindled to a measly few thousand.

What went wrong? Although there is general agreement on the facts, there are two divergent interpretations of the club's history. The most aggressive, conspiratorial line is provided by Benjamin Danet in his book, *Les Verts* (They Have Killed The Greens).

The "they" in this case being largely the charismatic Roger Rocher (or "Rock"), who rose from a miner to become president of the club. In Danet's account, all that power and success and fraternising with politicians went to Rocher's head and induced him to write megalomaniac letters to, among others, Pope John Paul II, assuring him of Saint-Etienne's continued support after his brush with an assassin's bullet.

What brought Rocher down, and put him in a Lyons jail in 1983, were revelations of a coisue noire - or slush fund - amounting to some 25 million francs. The scandal coincides with a rapid slide down the

rankings. In 1984 they lost 7-0 to Bordeaux and were relegated, and have yet to return to their former glory.

But Christophe Roy, who has red hair and freckles and works for the Office de Tourisme in Saint-Etienne, and represents a younger generation, puts a different complexion on things. For him, Rocher is still a "god". He died a year ago, but when, last month, there was a gathering at the stadium to cut the ribbon on all the new developments, the mere mention of his name drew a standing ovation.

Like Napoleon, Rocher, has been redeemed in his suffering and his death. "Rocher never filled his own pockets," argues Christophe. "Everything he did was in a good cause, for the benefit of the club. Not like Tapie at Marseilles!" (In all fairness, I hope to give Bernard Tapie the opportunity to give his own account in another article).

Although the golden age of 1976 seems like distant history now (Christophe was only five at the time), it is clear that it remains etched on the collective consciousness, not just in Saint-Etienne either. Although his family lived more than 200km away, they would drive in reli-

giously every fortnight for the home matches. In the 70s Saint-Etienne were virtually a substitute national team. Still, says Christophe, fans come from as far away as Paris and Nantes.

"We have 8,000-9,000 regulars. Which, considering we are floundering at the bottom of the second, is incredible."

Unlike the people of Marseilles, the *Stéphanois* do not like to "embellish the truth". So Christophe tells me bluntly that the present team is "not a strong team".

The future, on the other hand, looks promising. The under-18s have just won the French youth championship - as they did back in 1971, prior to their ascent. And on the back of this success, in the last couple of weeks, they have signed a deal with Arsène Wenger whereby Arsenal can "borrow" or ultimately sign their up-and-coming stars in exchange for an input in funds, coaching, and players.

The club has been put on a new financial footing, too, since Monsieur Bompard (a captain of the communications industry) took it over and pumped in funds and bought players. Thus Saint-Etienne, in the wake of the World Cup, are all set for a "renaissance" and "dreams of a return to European competition".

There is a saying about Saint-Etienne. "People only cry twice here: once when they have to come here to work, and a second time when they have to leave."

Fans like Christophe stay true to the team and the city precisely because it is struggling and hoping for better days.

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GERMANS BREAK MEXICAN HEARTS P30 • HENMAN SWEEPS PAST RAFTER P24



England players get the feel of the Stade Geoffroy Guichard during a training session in St Etienne yesterday afternoon. Up to 20,000 England fans are expected in the stadium for tonight's game

David Ashdown

Hoddle relishes the challenge

BY GLENN MOORE
in St Etienne

LYONS HAS its food, Bordeaux its wine and Paris its monuments. St Etienne has none of these but, in the context of a World Cup, it has something more precious. It is famous for the great deeds of its footballers.

Tonight, in a stadium billed in the local tourist board as possessing a "mythical" status by virtue of the triumphs it has hosted, England hope to create a legend of their own.

On to the pelouse once graced by Dominique Rocheteau, Michel Platini and Dominique Bathenay will tread Michael Owen, David Beckham and Alan Shearer. Up to 20,000 England fans will turn the "Chaudron Vert" into a "Chaudron Blanc", and a 12-year-old grievance will be addressed.

Maradona is gone, a sad shell of his former genius, but the modern Argentina stand in England's way. Gabriel Batistuta, Ariel Ortega and Juan Veron bar the path to the last eight and England's third quarter-final in four World Cups.

It could be a classic match: Two

in-form teams full of attacking players and fluid movement. It could also be very tight, with each side cancelling each other out.

"Argentina play deeper than Colombia," Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, said. "They play three at the back and stretch the pitch. It would be impossible to hunt the ball down for 90 minutes the way we did against Colombia. Our approach may have to be different but you can sometimes change the shape of the team rather than the personnel."

This, and the usual whispers, has led to a general belief that the Hoddle will field the same 11 which started against Colombia but with Graeme Le Saux dropping back more often in a flexible back three or four. Tony Adams is likely to stay the spare man, with Sol Campbell picking up Batistuta. An alternative is for Adams to mark Batistuta and Sol Campbell pick up Ortega when he moves forward.

"Like all great strikers Batistuta can smell the goal around the 18-yard box," Hoddle said. "His movement is excellent and, like all [Daniel] Passarella's players, he is disciplined and gets on with his work."

Batistuta only came back into the team recently after a long dispute with Passarella, a disciplinarian who counts a dislike of long hair and homosexuals among his rigid beliefs. Many of his players have been with him a long time, having been developed by Passarella at River Plate. Although the goalkeeper, Carlos Roa, does not look confident, Argentina have not conceded a goal in eight games.

Though Batistuta and Ortega catch the eye, Veron is the key player, a mixture of craft and class which sums up the team. His father, also Juan Veron, may be familiar to older Manchester United fans. A prolific striker known as "The Witch", he played for the ruthless Estudiantes team which kicked United off the park in the 1968-69 World Club Championship.

Passarella's Argentina have no truck with such behaviour though they are, admits the coach, "more pragmatic than spectacular". Like Hoddle he is proud of his team's ability to produce the best in adversity.

Yesterday the teams trained at the refurbished Stade Geoffroy Guichard, modernised at the cost of

£10m, all from the public purse. Then, as Englishmen wandered outside carrying desperate cardboard banners bearing the plea "Cherchez le billet, s.v.p.", the coaches took turn to sweat under the television lights of the press conference.

As each question was laboriously translated into English, French and Spanish, Hoddle, his hair slicked back after a quick post-training shower, stared straight ahead, swigging from a bottle of mineral water. He attempted a couple of jokes, which were lost in translation, but stuck mainly to giving a rousing message of confidence.

"We'll give it 110 per cent for the country; the bigger the challenge the better we play. There is no tension, just a positive streak running right through the team and staff. A lot of people will fancy Argentina but we do not feel we are underdogs."

Two hours later, as the hot afternoon sun began to fade, Argentina took to the pitch. They looked relaxed, finishing the session with a game of netball, played with all 22 players and coaches inside one penalty area, in which goals could only be scored by headers. It looked,

to English eyes, like a stunt suggesting they were practising their handwork for another "Hand of God" goal but they do it at every session. Ominously the game was won with a header from Batistuta.

England will wear all white. "Just as we did when we beat Argentina in 1966," Hoddle said. "Tonight, before the hullabaloo begins, the coach will find a brief moment to sit in peace. 'You don't get much time alone in this tournament,' he confided. 'There is always a decision to be taken, but this is something I have always done, as a player and a coach. It is a chance to get cool.'"

Hoddle, who won 56 caps, added: "Potentially this team can be better than any of the England teams I played in. It lacks experience but in four years' time the likes of Campbell, Neville, Scholes and Owen are going to be very experienced at this level."

"The World Cup is a chance to pit yourself at the highest level. I've played in it, and I've coached in it. It is a massive task but it is better than being on the beach watching it."

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman; Neville, Adams, Campbell, Le Saux; Anderson, Beckham, Ince, Scholes; Owen, Shearer.

Allez Les Verts, page 29



Glenn Hoddle (right) watches his young charge Michael Owen prepare for tonight's second-round match

David Ashdown

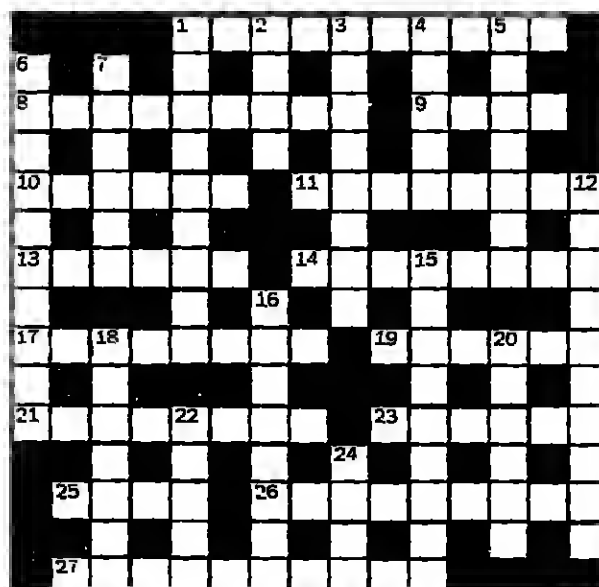
TODAY, ROMANIA V CROATIA (3.30), ARGENTINA V ENGLAND (8.0)

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3650, Tuesday 30 June

By Aclred

Monday's Solution



MONDAY'S SOLUTION
W H E E R
A M A G I C
E M A D U
S P L A S H
A L L T H E R E
I E A E A
N O T I N G
S I L E N C E
S H A N G H A I
W A R M I N G
M A G N E T I C
E M B R I O
E G G S
B R A G
I N F L A T I O N
T O O F I N D
C A N N O N B A L L

ACROSS

- 1 It could keep Rover going (3,7)
- 8 Could be Rev's type of poetry? (4,5)
- 9 Egg-shaped but not at first null (4)
- 10 Pass on information about story, we hear (6)
- 11 Rate poet badly in light musical work (8)
- 13 Sort of switch gives great success secured by Scottish runner (3-3)
- 14 Price to cool off in diplomatic niceties (8)
- 17 Popular position for example (8)
- 19 Beetle makes mark on sailor (6)
- 21 This gives our potential for being sore (8)

DOWN

- 23 Where nurse could be moving ahead (6)
- 25 Upper-class in group to be fat (4)
- 26 Could be still life paintings I bar (9)
- 27 Mostly hard copy pal sent off is not genuine (10)
- 1 Mail a lad posted to a religious leader (5,4)
- 2 Swing sail over by e.g. moving (4)
- 3 Popular use keeps power in amateur hands (8)
- 4 Cold's finished, this may not be needed (5)
- 5 I had contracted to get one of the listeners senseless (7)

ACROSS

- 6 All note the abandoned item which exactly fits the bill (10)
- 7 Greek man looking up and down cave (6)
- 12 Clever chap about to perish? Not if this (4-6)
- 15 College up in US state is dealing with applied science (9)
- 16 Precision of a conservative church appointment (8)
- 18 Give inadequate treatment about June's winter sports activity (3,4)
- 20 Argument about a boy (6)
- 22 Prophetic article abandoned by small state (5)
- 24 Unsatisfied desire for football ground with no parking (4)

Six players with the match-winning magic

ALAN SHEARER

JUST ONE goal in his three appearances so far has disappointed those who believed that only if Shearer did well could England achieve in France. Still the man that other countries fear most and you can bet that Argentina will put close shackles on him. Deadly on his right-side and in the air and will work all day. The Bulldog spirit burns fiercely in England's captain.



MICHAEL OWEN

HAS THE kind of explosive speed coveted by greyhounds and racehorses. Forced his way into the line-up through his ability to score out of nothing when appearing as a substitute against Romania, and has yet to be fazed by anything. Certainly will not lose sleep before the biggest test of his 18 years. The worry is that with Argentina's deep-lying defence, the areas he likes to accelerate into will be restricted.



DAVID BECKHAM

EXPERT AT set-pieces and in his crossing of the ball - strange then that in the first two games Glenn Hoddle preferred Darren Anderton in the right-sided wing position. Now supremely focused, he showed against Colombia with his first international goal that he has a big point to prove. Argentina will certainly be wary of conceding a free-kick within Beckham range.



GABRIEL BATISTUTA

ARGENTINA'S ALL-TIME record marksman, he has resumed good relations with the national coach, Daniel Passarella, who once sold Batistuta in club football, complaining he "had two left feet". Scored a hat-trick inside minutes against Jamaica and in either boot can carry too much power for goalkeepers. Has proved a consistent goalscorer in Italy with Fiorentina.



ARIEL ORTEGA

CARRIES THE burden of "the new Maradona" and has impressed those unaware of his nimble skills by the way he has created and scored goals. Will lurk behind Batistuta and quickly move up to add his support. Short and mobile, his low centre of gravity enables him to get away from defenders. Showed with his goal against Jamaica that he can produce the unorthodox to get the ball into the net.



CLAUDIO LOPEZ

SCORED THE winning goal in the friendly game with Brazil in April which was enough to earn him the status of a likely danger-man before the tournament started. A strong left-sided player, he has been slow to come to life and began the Croatia game on the substitutes' bench. But talent will always out and maybe he is the kind of player that saves his best for the important occasion.



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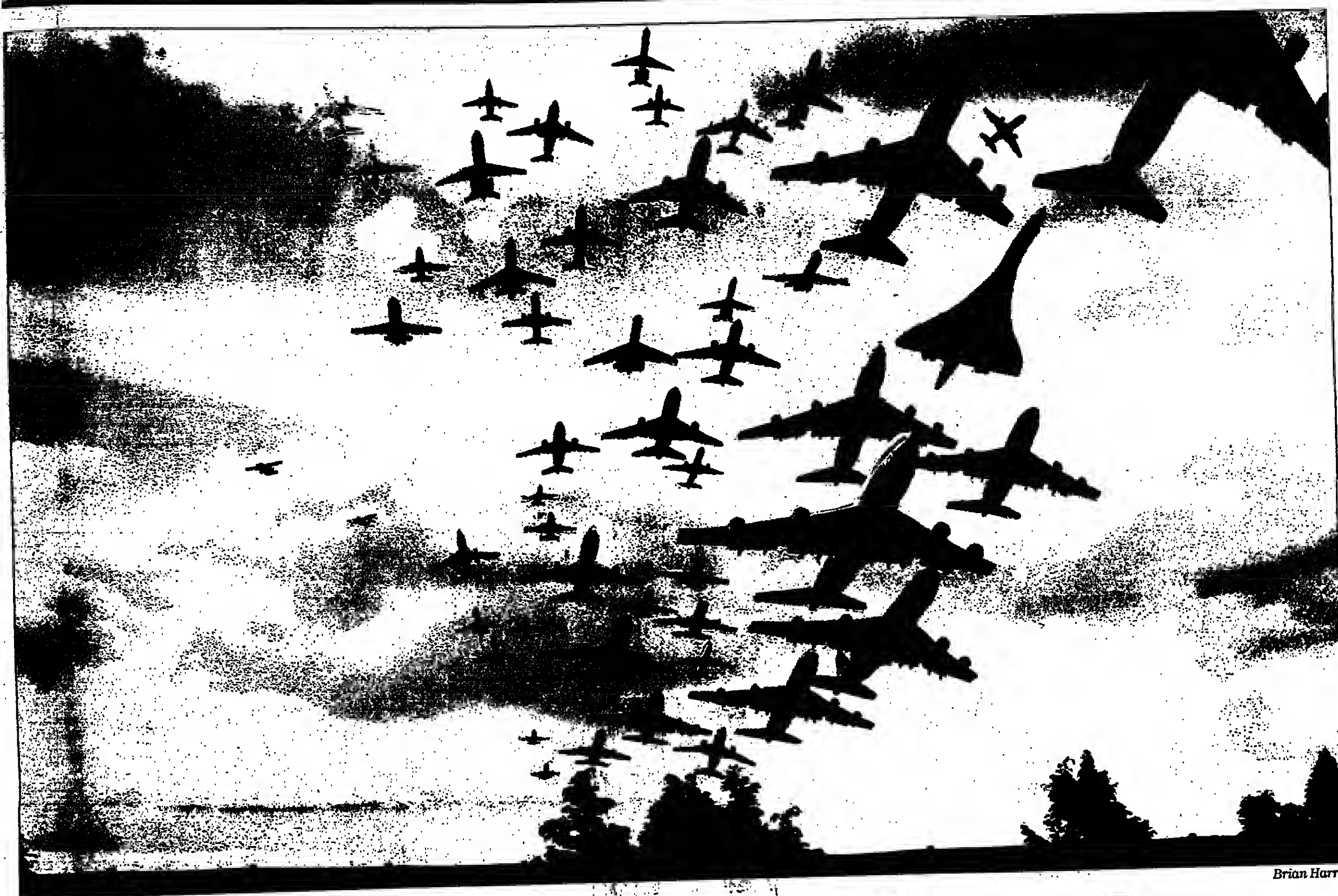
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TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Brian Harris

Mayhem in the sky

ON 29 APRIL, this year an air traffic controller at the London Area and Terminal Control Centre (LATCC) in West Drayton, Middlesex, sent a letter to senior management. "I have been a radar controller on the Clacton sector for 10 years," he wrote, "and throughout that time I have found it to be a fast and furious sector but a controllable one. Yesterday, 28 April, the sector went into chaos and was extremely dangerous. I have never been so frightened when controlling a sector. All the decisions had to be based on instinct as there was NO planning or thinking time. I feel I must write to you to express my concern. After all, the blips we are controlling are REAL aeroplanes with REAL people on board, and I feel their lives were put at risk by yesterday's mayhem." The letter went on to describe the "mayhem" that had occurred the previous day, and concluded: "I had occurred the previous day, and concluded: 'I would like to make it clear now that yesterday's problems are NEVER repeated. I will hand in my CLN validation as I am not prepared to work under such dangerous and unprofessional conditions.'"

To understand fully what happened on 28 April, it is necessary to understand the nature of an air traffic controller's job and the stresses it involves on a day-to-day basis. "Like 3-D chess" is the image one controller uses to describe what he does. A controller sits at a radar screen which displays a given sector of airspace. The blips on his screen tell him the current altitude, flight number, destination and the ground speed of all the aircraft in his sector. His job is to marshal those aircraft while keeping a safe distance between them, which is a statutory minimum of five miles, coming down to three miles on final approach (or two and a half miles in fine weather). At LATCC there are usually around 150 controllers on duty at any time. Of these, around 50 work in the terminal control room, which is responsible for bringing aircraft safely in to land, and the rest work in the area control room, directing air traffic over the whole of England and Wales. The job requires high concentration and controllers are obliged to take a half-hour break every two hours, although such is the pressure that they are more likely to do so after an hour and a half or even just an hour.

In order for the system to work to its maximum capacity, the spacing of aircraft has to be precise

— too close and it becomes dangerous, too far apart and the controller is "wasting space". The satisfaction of achieving an optimum flow rate can be considerable. "You think to yourself, 'Oh yes, I've got a space there, now can I squeeze that one into it?'" one controller told me. "And you get it in and they're all safely separated and you get a nice flow. You do that for an hour, an hour and a half, and you think to yourself, 'Oh I kind of enjoyed that.'"

Such moments of enjoyment are becoming increasingly rare, however. The volume of air traffic in the skies is growing by around seven per cent a year, which means that controllers are now working under maximum pressure most of the time. "We used to have some easy sectors, so if you didn't feel quite up to it, you used to say, 'Do you mind if I just sit over there and do that bit?'" one told me. "But today there are no easy sectors at all, it's bang, bang, bang all the time. There's hardly any let-up."

Half the time when they are working, controllers also have to supervise a trainee who is directing air traffic but whose directions can be over-ruled if necessary. "They're making mistakes all the time with real aircraft, real lives," said one. "We come close to having air-misses every day. You have to catch them and you've only got seconds to do something, so you really have to be on the ball. Of course that so you really stress level right out of the window." Many controllers believe that it is now too busy at LATCC for trainees to work there safely.

Pilots can be a problem, particularly if their use of English, the universal language of air traffic control, isn't up to scratch. Controllers tend to accuse those from the newer Eastern bloc countries and those from South America of being particularly bad. "The thing is, you're going at twenty to the dozen and these guys are going, 'Sorry? Say again,'" said one controller.

In the area control room at LATCC, the equipment is 26 years old and spares are no longer manufactured for it. There used to be a spare radar suite available if one went down, but that is now in constant use. "The computer fails on a regular basis," said one controller. "Our radars go blank." Without radar, the controllers can fall back on procedural control, which enables them to separate aircraft according to time and height. "That's our safety net," the controller went on. "But you can't really do that nowadays because we're spacing aircraft right on the five miles that we need and doing some really complex stuff with them, turning them behind each

28 April 1998 is a day forever etched on the furrowed brows of Britain's stressed-out air traffic controllers.

It was a day when the airspace above Heathrow became clogged with aircraft caught out by a freak thunderstorm. It was a day which, for a terrifying 30 minutes, degenerated into chaos. It was a day that must never come again

BY TIM HULSE

other and so on. If the radar goes then, you're up shit creek without a paddle, really."

But the major potential cause of disruption is bad weather. In the case of say, thunderstorms, a controller can suddenly find he's playing 3-D chess on an entirely new board, as aircraft are re-routed to avoid flying through the storm. "You have complete traffic flows move into areas of airspace which they're not normally supposed to be in, so you end up having to co-ordinate with someone else because you're in their airspace," one controller said. "Instead of falling back on a procedure, you then have to think on your feet."

There was early fog and low cloud at Heathrow on the morning of Tuesday, 28 April. In accordance with standard procedures for bad visibility, air traffic managers at LATCC had already reduced the landing rate at the airport as the day's first scheduled arrival touched down at 6am. The standard landing rate at Heathrow is 45 aircraft per hour, but on this morning it had been set at just over half that. This meant inevitable delays for in-coming aircraft. Some would be forced to wait in holding patterns until they were given permission to land. Others were sitting on the tarmac at airports all over Europe, awaiting the go-ahead to begin their journeys. But as the fog began to lift, the landing rate was gradually increased. Finally, at 7.55am, when the last residual low cloud had dispersed, traffic managers set the rate to the standard 45 per hour.

According to an internal report concerning the events of April 28th written by the National Air Traffic Services investigation unit, the area control watch supervisor at LATCC "did consider that the proposed flow rate for Heathrow was a little high, but was prepared to accept the advice of the traffic managers". There was a sound reason for his concern. When the landing rate returns to normal, it's the signal for Euroflow control in Brussels to allocate take-off times for delayed aircraft all over the continent. With some aircraft already in holding patterns over England, a fresh influx could cause the holding stacks to become congested. However, the situation was nothing out of the ordinary and at 8.30am the terminal control traffic manager reported that all seemed well, with holding time averaging just 15 minutes. Controllers braced themselves for the anticipated explosion of blips on their screens as the European wave arrived. It was going to get busy, but it was nothing they couldn't handle.

And then the unexpected happened. Everyone con-

cerned was fully aware of a Met Office warning which stated that thunderstorms and hail would become widespread during the afternoon. However, the storms began much earlier than forecast. By approximately 9.30am, thunderstorms had already broken out over south-east England. Soon after 10am, the storms began seriously to affect the area of the main holding stack for Heathrow, which is over Lambourne, near Romford in Essex. For the controllers directing this sector of airspace, the so-called Clacton sector, which acts as the main entry point for aircraft entering British airspace from mainland Europe, the unexpected disruption caused their already high workload to rise to almost unmanageable levels. The Lambourne stack was soon full to capacity and the two subsidiary stacks, codenamed Sabre and Logan, were also reaching saturation point as more and more aircraft flowed into the sector. In an attempt to control the situation, the chief controller of the Clacton sector doubled the number of his control staff from three to six. Another chief was also brought in. (All the controllers I spoke to said it was sheer luck that enough controllers with the appropriate experience happened to be on hand at the time.)

When all three stacks were full, the controllers then had to route other arriving aircraft through those which were already circling. "There were all these other aircraft still flowing in with nowhere to go, it was chaos," said a controller who was working on a nearby sector at the time. "They were borrowing all our airspace. We could see the carnage that was going on. There were in excess of 50 aircraft just going round in circles. They [the controllers] were doing some really unusual things with the aircraft to avoid hitting the ones going round in circles. To be quite honest, I thought it was out of control."

"Everything coming into that sector, somewhere along the line, was going to be in conflict with something else, and they couldn't stop the traffic coming in," another controller told me. "There were controllers with 15 years of experience and even they were just spotting the conflicts at the last minute."

"One of them told me, 'I never noticed one conflict until they were ten miles apart,'" said another. "Ten miles head on! It was a case of 'Turn right now!'. [The combined closing speed of the two aircraft would have been around 12 miles per minute.] It's just by the grace of God that nothing happened. We were fortunate that all those controllers were very experienced and extremely

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SIX PAGES OF
MEDIA

A question of sporting rhinos

ARGENTINA... WIMBLEDON... South African cricketers... rugby down under... yes, these are stirring times in the sports world, and predictably I have been deluged by letters on the subject. And who better to answer your queries than the hard man of sports reporting, Rene McGrath! All yours, Rene...

Can you explain this extraordinary decision of the Romanian football team at the World Cup to dye their hair blond overnight? Have the players of any previous team in history ever adopted the same hairstyle?

Rene McGrath writes: Oh, yes. All the England sides of the Thirties sported the same short back and sides. No matter whether they had flowing locks, drooping moustachios or pigtailed in everyday life, they had to get short back and

Danes didn't know they had qualified till the last moment, so they didn't do any strenuous training. They came to the contest straight from the beaches of the Mediterranean, and then proceeded to go through to the final and beat the Germans. All the sports commentators said that this might be because their lack of preparation had made them so relaxed. This time, the Danes have trained strenuously, and have done equally well so far, even beating Nigeria, and all the sports commentators say it is because they are so well prepared and organised. They can't be right both times, can they?

Rene McGrath writes: It is not the job of the sports commentator to be right. It is his job to sound right.

Apparently, the Yugoslav coach in charge of the Nigerian team was due to be fired by President Abacha of Nigeria, but Abacha had a heart attack the day before he was going to do it and died. Do you think the Yugoslav coach was, in fact, guilty of having the president murdered in order to safeguard his job?

Rene McGrath writes: It's a nice idea, but, if he couldn't organise the defeat of Denmark, I don't see him being capable of organising a murder 2,000 miles away. Have we got any questions not about the World Cup please?

Yes. Why did the *Radio Times* feature Greg Rusedski on their cover and over about 10 pages inside, and then he didn't even finish his first-round match at Wimbledon before withdrawing?

Rene McGrath writes: The *Radio Times* has a grand tradition of printing features which have absolutely nothing to do with the week's programmes, things like *My TV Dinner* and *My Kind Of Day*. Mr Rusedski probably felt he had to withdraw to maintain the *Radio Times*' proud record of being irrelevant.

Do our snooker players go to sleep in the summer season?

Rene McGrath writes: No, but our rugby players do.

This new drug, *Viagra*, that promotes sexual potency - do you think it has been produced by wildlife lovers?

Rene McGrath writes: I'm not with you. Well, the rhino is endangered because its horn is much in demand for use as an aphrodisiac, but if people find *Viagra* works better, they will switch to *Viagra* from rhino horn and the rhino will be saved, so I was just wondering if the wildlife people are behind it all...

Rene McGrath writes: Yes, I do. But I also expect the wily Romanians to have dyed their hair black or green meanwhile. Now, could we have some questions not about hairstyles in football, please?

Yes. In Euro T92, the sides for the international games and go back to their long tresses afterwards.



MILES KINGSTON

Do you think Croatia will turn out tomorrow in blond hairdos?

But what about the Romanians? I heard Jimmy Hill on the TV say that it might be a good idea for a team all to go bright yellow, because if you had to pass a ball in a split second, it would be easier to spot another blond head out of the corner of your eye to pass it to than look for a shirt of the same colour...

Rene McGrath writes: Jimmy Hill is a nice enough bloke, but he doesn't think things through, does he? Of course it's easy to pass to another blond head if you see it out of the corner of your eye, but it's also just as easy for the opposition to dye their heads blond to deceive you into passing to them. I predict that at the next World Cup the manager of any team will be forced to announce 24 hours in advance what colour hair his players will be wearing.

But meanwhile do you think Croatia will turn out tomorrow in blond hairdos to deceive Romania?

Rene McGrath writes: Yes, I do. But I also expect the wily Romanians to have dyed their hair black or green meanwhile. Now, could we have some questions not about hairstyles in football, please?

Yes. In Euro T92, the sides for the international games and go back to their long tresses afterwards.

THE REVIEW DAY BY DAY

MONDAY REVIEW

As well as our regular columnists, features and expanded comment pages, Network, our information technology section, moves to Monday.

TUESDAY REVIEW

An improved media section, with appointments, moves to Tuesday. Visual arts and more health pages are also Tuesday regulars.

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

Fashion, midweek money pages, in addition to finance and secretarial sections (previously City+) will stay on Wednesday.

THURSDAY REVIEW

Our education section will appear as a separate tabloid section. Improved and expanded film pages now move to Thursday.

FRIDAY REVIEW

The architecture and science pages now move to Friday. In addition, we will have a new law section and our music pages.

THE INDEPENDENT
Bigger and better



Our series on Pym Farm in Tovil, Kent, continues with a shot of the special felt shoes worn by sheep-shearers to stop them slipping while at work

Rui Xavier

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Too many exams

Sir: Is it not time to have a serious debate about the necessity of public examinations at the age of 16? I say this not to knock the exam boards nor to fight against assessment nor to deny the importance of school improvement. I say it because I think the public examination system at 16 actually works against improving education.

At Crown Hills we spend more on exam entries per pupil than on learning materials to teach them. In a school of about 200 16-year-old pupils we spend about £7,000 for learning materials for the whole year and over £23,000 on exam entries. To me, that seems obscene, especially when the results confirm our teacher assessments to a remarkable degree. At Crown Hills we are already doing an excellent job and have been commended by Ofsted, HMI and various other audit bodies. We could do even better if the time and money spent on organising public exams was diverted to even better teaching and learning.

Second, I believe that we are the only country in the so-called developed world to operate in this way. Most other countries operate in-house assessments at 16, which are then externally checked and validated.

Third, public exams are notoriously poor at predicting future success. At 16 the coaching required to achieve success will always say as much about the teaching and resourcing of schools as about pupils' abilities. It says nothing about common sense. How many people do we all know who do well in exams, but cannot look after themselves?

Finally, I am very much in favour of dramatic improvement in our education standards and have dedicated my professional life to improving education. I am very tough on standards of behaviour and achievement and feel we should wage war on waste and incompetence, but how does the current public exam system help? I do not have a problem with more formal examinations from the age of 18 or work-related assessments, but at 16 it is over the top.

GARY COLEBY
Principal
Crown Hills Community College
Leicester

Sir: Michael Barber, the head of the Government's Standards and Effectiveness Unit, identifies one pillar of the Government's education policy as "comprehensive targets for 2002" described in the Government's White Paper, and another pillar as enabling everyone to reach their full potential (Podium, 23 June). He cannot have it both ways.

The comprehensive targets described in the White Paper are extremely narrow and involve specified percentages of 11-year-olds nationwide reaching by 2002 standards expected of them in English and Maths. These standards, to which the Government has proudly given first priority, attach no weight whatsoever to the achievements of those who cannot reach those standards or of those who will attain them in any case but

who, with good teaching, are capable of exceeding them by a wide margin.

To ignore the achievements of those groups of pupils in setting standards tempts schools to focus on the middle rather than to encourage all pupils to reach their full potential. The Government's relentless devotion to reach such narrow goals is misguided.

JOSEPH CHUBB
Lechlade, Gloucestershire

Sir: I am accused by an anonymous critic (letter, 18 June) of simplifying profound problems. I cannot be held responsible for *The Independent's* headline "Poor schools blamed on headteachers", which does not reflect Ofsted's report on secondary education. Our report in fact states very clearly that standards are rising and that the teachers responsible deserve all possible recognition and praise.

That said, we do not find many failing schools led by strong headteachers and the appointment of a new head is often, of course, the catalyst to progress. When I asked why my critic wanted to remain anonymous I was told that he did not want to prejudice positive developments in the school. He recognises, therefore, that inspection can lead to improvement, even if he himself was unable to deliver.

CHRIS WOODHEAD
HM Chief Inspector of Schools
Office for Standards in Education
London WC2

Battle against abuse

Sir: Roger Dobson has done us all a service by compiling an up-to-date list of inquiries into past abuse in children's homes ("The catalogue of child abuse that puts Britain to shame," 25 June). It is a record for which none of my colleagues feels anything but regret and shame.

But despite the shocking picture which emerges, the vast majority of children cared for by local authorities and voluntary organisations during the 1970s and 1980s were cared for properly and carefully by committed staff, and will have matured in to well-balanced adulthood despite the fearful stigma that has been - and threatens to continue to be - attached to them. Mr Dobson fails to mention that most of the current inquiries are being conducted with the full support and active co-operation of social services departments, and that they indeed will have instigated many of them.

Directors of social services are doing everything possible to implement Department of Health guidelines and the recommendations of significant reports by authors such as Norman Warner and Sir William Utting, while contributing to and preparing for further major strategic developments that have already been trailed.

We might never achieve the exacting standards set by the legal profession, and so elegantly articulated by Allan Levy QC. But nobody should doubt the concern and determination with which we are setting about protecting the children

in our care from abuse. Nor should they doubt the persistence with which we have urged successive governments to introduce a General Social Care Council - a persistence which we hope will bear fruit in the coming months.

ROY TAYLOR
President
Association of Directors of Social Services
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey

Tory Eurocynics

Sir: Francis Maude (Podium, 26 June) describes the Tory "wait and see" position on a European single currency as one of "pragmatism". "Cynical opportunism" would be a better description.

The idea seems to be that we should allow our European partners to take all the risks and experience all the problems associated with monetary union and then, if it turns out to be a success, we can jump aboard and enjoy all the benefits. The current government's "watch and wait" strategy (leading article, 25 June) may look similar but in fact represents a radical departure: all the indications are that ministers believe that a single currency will be a success, and that Britain should join just as soon as economic convergence and a favourable climate of public opinion can be achieved.

Unfortunately, whilst our partners have been working towards these ends for several years, Britain has been side-tracked into a largely sterile debate about "sovereignty" and "national identity". The Scots and the Welsh have not lost their national identity as a result of being in a currency union with England. Even if the Scottish and Welsh nationalists were to achieve their goal of independence, I doubt that they would suggest breaking a currency union that works. I suspect that, in a few years time, we will take the European single currency for granted.

Dr MARK PATTON
London SW16

Sir: It was disappointing to see Anne McElvoy troop out the old canard about "EMU's dirty little secret" (Comment, 25 June). It is simply not the case that "without harmonisation of tax, pensions and eventually welfare provision, [EMU] cannot be sustained". That is not the case in the United States, so why should it be in the euro-zone? There is a much stronger case to argue that different tax rates will on the contrary be essential to EMU, as an adjustment mechanism to take some of the slack of a single monetary policy.

I cannot think of a single mainstream EU politician calling for such a degree of harmonisation. Either Anne McElvoy believes that this question has not occurred to EU leaders, or she has joined the ranks of the conspiracy theorists who see their peoples into a superstate. It is difficult to decide which of these options is the less plausible.

Even at the high-water mark of "can do" integrationism, with the 1989 Delors Committee report, harmonisation of tax, pensions and welfare was not proposed. It remains

nothing more than a Eurosceptic spectre.

GREGORY WILLIAMS
Watford, Hertfordshire

Sir: There appears to be a point missing from the Euro-currency debate. Everyone assumes that there are only two scenarios to be debated: one, we do not wish to join and therefore do not; two, we do wish to join and therefore do so. May I suggest a third? We eventually decide we wish to join and we are vetoed by those who are already members of the euro-zone. What benefit would they gain from allowing the UK to join? It is not at all obvious now and it may be less so in five years.

B ANDERSON
Farnborough, Hampshire

Universal gods

Sir: Canon Roger Clifton (letter, 26 June) asserts that an atheist cannot deny the possibility of a god. Indeed, no sensible atheist will reject the possibility that an intelligence directs the Universe.

Every religion, however, describes its god in detail and with every attribute it gives him (mostly "him") reduces the chance of its being right until it becomes vanishingly small.

Christians have an even more serious problem. It is now apparent that life must be manifest throughout the Universe. Does God's "only begotten son" have to go to every planet with life, "save" the inhabitants and get killed in whatever unpleasant manner there is in force at the time?

All religions are predicated on the assumption that we on earth matter especially. Before Copernicus, when scientists accepted a geocentric universe, that might have been tenable. The whole notion is now manifestly absurd. Take humans as they are, value them, and live on the principle that there is no supernatural force looking after us. Do not seek an emotional crutch.

Dr LAURIE BUXTON
Swaffham, Norfolk

Police and racism

Sir: I felt disappointed and grieved by Trevor Phillips's article "Why we don't always know we're being racist" (Comment, 22 June).

I served as a Metropolitan policeman from the early Fifties to the mid-Eighties. Mr Phillips raises two issues, that of the Stephen Lawrence case and the Deptford fire which occurred in 1981. I cannot comment on the former as it occurred after my retiring from the force but I have a feeling of great sympathy for the family of Stephen Lawrence and I am confident that my feelings are shared by the majority of policemen.

I was, however, close to the Deptford fire. We knew instantly that it presented us a very delicate case which would have to be dealt with meticulously. Never was a case more stringently investigated, yet without awaiting any result or any information whatsoever the West Indian community condemned it as a racial attack. They organised a march through South London

attended by thousands during which windows were smashed and shops looted. No evidence emerged to indicate any outside agency. It was apparent that the fire originated inside the house.

Mr Phillips suggests a minute's silence to reflect on what we lost in Deptford in 1981. I agree wholeheartedly, and I would add that it would be fitting at the same time to extend a kind word of sympathy to the family of Keith Blakelock.

JAMES FRASER
Coulson, Surrey

Mayoral spin

Sir: Ken Livingstone "spins" with the best of them, when he alleges "The truth about our spin doctors". 24 June) that I have explained the low turn-out in the London referendum as being caused by speculation about who would be the mayoral candidate.

I appreciate Ken would love to feel that the only thing that interests people is whether he will or will not be a candidate. I plead guilty to a desire that the debate on London's mayor should be focused on what policies are right for London and Londoners.

However, the real reason for the low turn-out in the referendum was that the "no" campaign was virtually non-existent and a "yes" vote was seen as a foregone conclusion. This was coupled with broad satisfaction with Tony Blair and his government. So there was no protest - unlike the local elections in 1994 and in 1990, when hundreds of thousands of people came out to record their votes against an unpopular Conservative national government.

Councillor TOBY HARRIS
Chair
Association of London Government
London SW1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Kevin Bond, chief executive of Yorkshire Water, has a 30 per cent pay bonus, bringing his remuneration to £298,000. Ofwat reports a 12 per cent increase in the number of Yorkshire Water problems it is asked to investigate; unmetered homes have their prices increased by 8.1 per cent. The company attempts to justify the figure by claiming that it attracts and retains the right calibre of director.

I'm sure truly high-calibre folk such as judges, airline pilots and surgeons would love to know exactly what skills and knowledge make Mr Bond worth nearly £3,000 per day. JOHN ROBERT BROWN
Leeds

Sir: You believe Louise Woodward was properly tried and convicted leading article, 25 June). The question is not so much whether the American judicial system might be worse than ours, but that we are not so confident of any system after the many miscarriages of justice in this country, such as the case of the Birmingham Six. Deny Louise Woodward a voice and you are part of the problem. Panorama was perfectly entitled to give her a voice.

J Z DEAN
Knowsley, Merseyside

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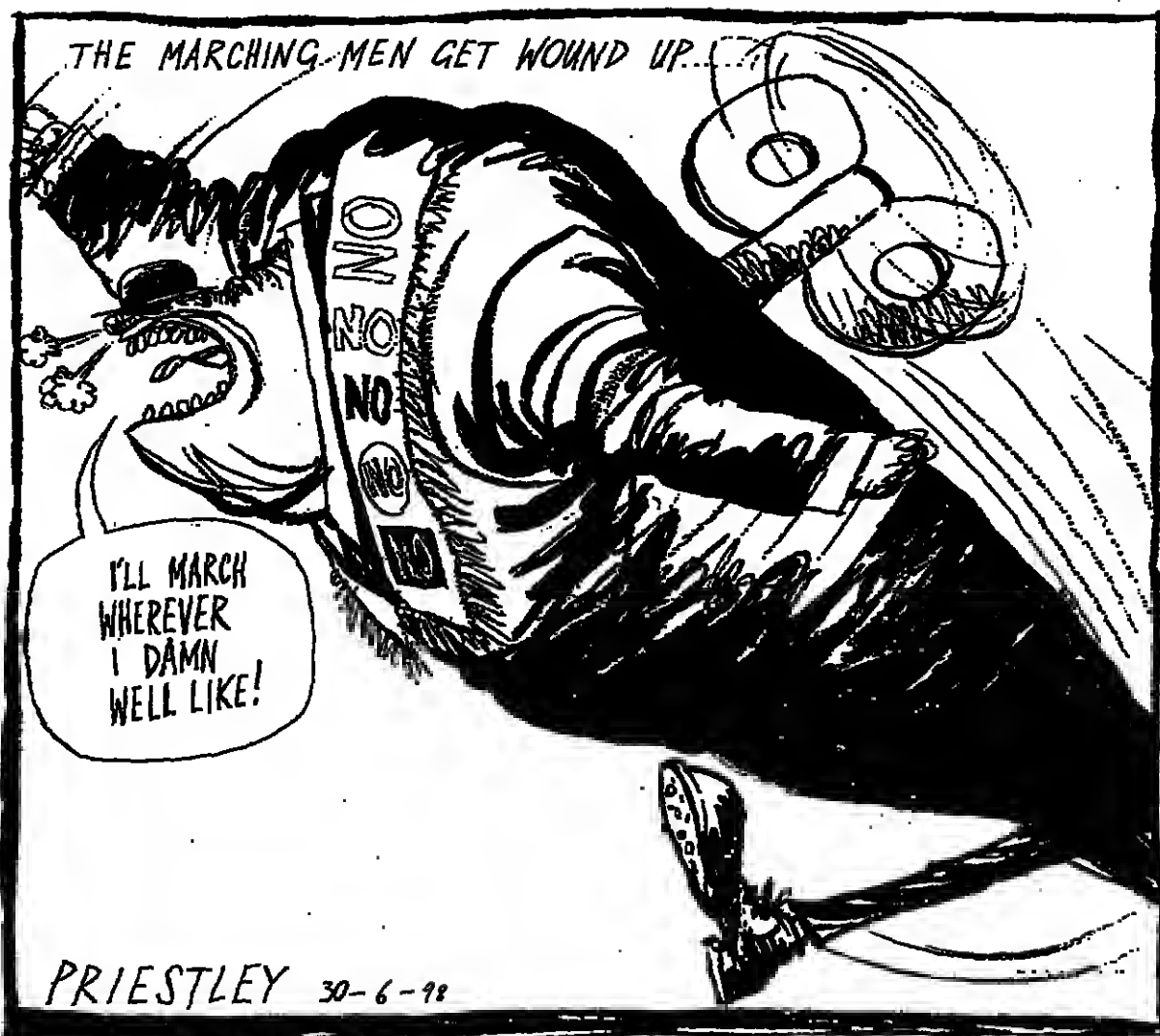
Can our doctors be left to look after themselves?

FOR MOST of the next month, celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the National Health Service will be an ever-present theme across politics and the media. Most of the coverage will, perfectly sensibly, ponder the structure of the service – how best to fund it, whether it needs fundamental change and how efficiently it meets the demands we place on it. But beneath these questions lies a more fundamental question about the medical profession. Are doctors themselves living up to the role we expect of them?

The organisation of the medical profession is still essentially unchanged from that of a century ago, with the training and licensing of doctors and surgeons in the hands of Royal Colleges that date back to the 16th century. The main difference is that today doctors are, for all that cases such as the Bristol Royal Infirmary expose a deep-seated complacency that protects malpractice, amongst the best paid and most trusted professionals. Until just over a century ago, however, they were neither well rewarded nor well regarded. In the 19th century physicians, surgeons and the despised apothecaries plied their trades as equals in law. In 1858 Parliament created a single register and a single council to co-ordinate medical education. Since then, the growth in the power and influence of doctors has been unrelenting.

This has been due, in part, to the Royal Colleges' deliberate strategy of imposing strict limits on the numbers allowed to qualify, and ensuring that the self-like apprentice existence of junior doctors lasts many years – a tactic that remains a central cause of the Royal College's power to run the show. Whether it can last, however, is doubtful – when it is common for British doctors to train and qualify abroad, and in an age when professional barriers are constantly under question. Only yesterday Dr Richard Kaul, an anaesthetist who qualified and acts as a consultant in the United States but has been told he must undergo further training to practise in the UK, announced that he is to sue the Specialist Training Authority, which operates on behalf of the Royal Colleges.

The issue of qualification is, of course, important on its own. But it is also representative of a more general malaise in the medical profession – the club-like, closed mentality of secrecy that regards any change as a step backwards and thinks of outsiders as troublemakers to be kept at bay. Like any club, the medical profession tends to be self-replicating. Three-quarters of applicants



to medical school have professional parents and nearly one in five has a doctor parent. Worse still, when the Commission for Racial Equality examined appointments to consultant jobs, it found that out of 147 vacancies, 53 per cent of applicants, but only 27 per cent of the appointments, were from ethnic minorities. It concluded that "the disparities in success rates... were so marked and consistent, and the omission of procedural safeguards so routine, that the possibility of discrimination cannot be ignored".

The Bristol Royal Infirmary tragedies were due to the culpability of individual doctors. But as the General Medical Council now appears to recognise, this "us against the world" outlook works against any possibility of bringing malpractice to light. In an attempt to inculcate

a greater sense of duty towards the protection of high standards, rather than the protection of colleagues, the GMC is now to distribute 200,000 copies of a new handbook setting out doctors' responsibilities and telling them when they should report colleagues to protect patients from bad practice.

The positive side of self-regulation and clubbability is supposed to be a shared commitment to excellence, although that theory has taken a blow in recent weeks. It is just possible that the outcry over the cover-up in Bristol will have positive repercussions. But the speed of progress in the medical profession is notoriously slow, and the likelihood is that, for all the GMC's apparent effort, we will not have to wait long for the next avoidable disaster.

An agency in need of drastic reform

IN THE annals of unpopularity, few agencies can come near to the levels of opprobrium achieved by the Child Support Agency. Much of its unpopularity was to be expected – fathers who had never before had to pay towards their children's upbringing were suddenly faced with meeting their responsibilities, and with the large bills that entailed. The intention that lay behind setting up the CSA – forcing absent fathers to honour their responsibilities – was admirable. But, for all the whingeing and special pleading, there is something deeply flawed about the way CSA operates. The formula adopted to assess liability is so complicated that staff spend 90 per cent of their time processing forms, with an administrative bill alone of £200m a year.

The Government is to publish a Green Paper next week on the future of the agency, and seems to have concluded that almost everything about the CSA needs to be changed. Most important, it is proposing an end to the existing formula which can take three years to process. Instead, it is proposing a flat rate deduction from income. This should free staff to concentrate on those fathers who are making no contribution – the so-called deadbeat dads. As things stand, the agency has a case load of 742,000, with a backlog of more than 140,000. Even amongst those parents who have been assessed, 65,000 have paid nothing for more than three months. The principle behind the agency is a good one. Many fathers need to be coerced into taking responsibility. The last government put a lot of effort into reforming the existing structure, to little avail. The Government is right to conclude that drastic action is needed.

Sun and darkness

SO GORDON BROWN is jetting off to Idaho next month to talk to the assembled elite of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. At their last convention in Australia, the appearance of Tony Blair sealed the marriage of convenience between Mr Blair and Mr Murdoch. But the invitation to address Mr Murdoch and his minions should make the Chancellor pause for thought. Mr Murdoch is, after all, one of the world's supreme politicians.

His eggs are currently all stacked in the Blair basket. But by making a canny invitation to the Government's leading EMU advocate in the week of *The Sun's* most virulent attack on Tony Blair's creeping Europhilia, the Prince of Darkness has shown yet again that he is a worthy successor to Machiavelli.

Just why are we wasting so much money on the Royal Opera House?

WHICH IS the odd one out among these cultural institutions? They all have new buildings. Take a journey round London to see them. In Trafalgar Square, the Sainsbury extension to the National Gallery has now been open a few years and is a wonderful improvement. Go into Covent Garden nearby and see the new Royal Opera House – taking shape. The visitor should next drop down to the Thames and travel east to Bankside to find the disused power station which is being converted into a home for the Tate Gallery's collection of modern art.

Then go north to Bloomsbury to the British Museum, where is being created the finest new public space in the capital for many years. This is the Great Court Scheme, due for completion in 2000. An inner courtyard, of vast size and noble proportions, hidden from view since the middle of the last century, is being opened up to reveal the domed Reading Room. It will be the city's first covered square. I agree with the scheme's architect, Sir Norman Foster, when he says that "what I think we have found is not just a new heart for the British Museum, but a great new public place for London".

Finally, walk briskly north for 20 minutes or so until you reach Euston Road. Look to your right, where St Pancras station stands, and there, crouched alongside, is the brand new British Library building. It has taken longer to construct than some medieval cathedrals, and was finally opened by the Queen last Thursday.

These new buildings have been paid for in different ways. The Sainsbury extension to the National Gallery was financed by the family whose

name it bears before Lottery money became available. The Sainsburys have also contributed handsomely to the Royal Opera House, and to the British Museum, where they are underwriting the new galleries for the African collections.

The British Library is by far the most expensive project, at £520m, a sum almost entirely provided by the Government; however John Rishlat, the brilliant property entrepreneur, has paid for a gallery which will house the Library's finest treasures, and Pearson Group, owner of *The Financial Times*, has also given support.

The Royal Opera House, the Tate and the British Museum have employed the now classic formula of Lottery grant plus matching donations from private benefactors.

By the way, I calculate that the total cost of these five building projects amounts to £967m. Even leaving out of account the Millennium Dome, this is an enormous sum of money. The 1990s will have been a vintage decade for constructing new cultural edifices in the capital city.

Yet in this statement lies paradox. The five institutions confront the same perplexity. They are rich in capital for building projects, yet poor in endowed income. The British Museum, the National Gallery and the Tate have alike narrowly avoided having to charge entry fees for the first time. At the last moment, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made funds available. None has any significant funds of its own for acquisitions, so the collections have become static. The Royal Opera House, in a desperate move, has just demanded that its £15m

name it bears before Lottery money became available. The Sainsburys have also contributed handsomely to the Royal Opera House, and to the British Museum, where they are underwriting the new galleries for the African collections.

Unlike the British Library, the opera house is not central to the nation's cultural activities

a year grant be doubled. But the most pressing case may be the British Library. The British Library is not only the place where one finds the earliest manuscript of the complete New Testament, the oldest surviving Buddhist texts, the Lindisfarne Gospels, two copies of the Gutenberg Bible, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, and the manuscript containing the lyrics of the Beatles' single "I Want to Hold Your Hand"; it is also the United Kingdom's national library. It has been receiving a copy of every British publication since the Copyright Act of 1842. To access and to make available this vast store of knowledge, around

9,000 visits are made to the Library's reading rooms in a typical week, 10,000 items are consulted, 12,000 reproductions are made and 13,000 enquiries answered. Likewise over 76,000 requests a week for remote document supply are received, 46,000 searches of the Library's website are made, and 60,000 searches of the online catalogue conducted. It could be argued that it is the country's most important cultural institution.

The Library receives an annual grant of just over £80m and there will be no increase for three years. It charges for its services where it is reasonably can, so that the proportion of its spending covered by the government grant has declined from 88 per cent in 1974 to 73 per cent this year. None the less, the Library considers that it is now under-funded by £5m a year, and that this gap is likely to rise quite quickly to some £20m a year as the demands for its services – a statutory duty to meet – increase. That is why it is considering charging for access to its reading rooms, at a rate of perhaps £300 a year for regular users. This would break a 250-year-old tradition. Neither Earl Marx nor George Bernard Shaw paid to consult the Library's volumes.

Now turn to the Royal Opera House again. Unlike the British Library and the others, it is not central to one of the nation's cultural activities. The musical life of the country would not be unduly damaged if there was no Royal Opera House. I say this although I have greatly enjoyed many performances there. Its point of distinction is that, if properly funded, it can employ the world's greatest

singers and lay on sumptuous productions, whereas the English National Opera, just down the road at the Coliseum, does not do so, although it attains high standards.

But also compare the Royal Opera House's demands with the value of a quite different musical initiative announced a few days ago. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, has set up a Youth Music Trust which will be given £10m a year of Lottery money to improve music teaching in schools. Mr Smith's long-term aim is to ensure that any young person anywhere in the country who wants to play an instrument will have the opportunity to do so. That would be a crucial development.

Everything about the Royal Opera House seems out of proportion. Its new building is more costly than either the Tate or British Museum schemes, yet the number of people who will benefit from the new facilities is much smaller – perhaps a tenth of the 6 million a year who visit the British Museum. The extra grant it has requested could be used in a more culturally enriching fashion for the nation if spent by, say, the British Library in avoiding charges for access to its reading rooms and restoring its services to what it considers to be a minimum level of effectiveness. Many other institutions, too, could make a better argument.

Later today Sir Richard Eyre's report on the Royal Opera House will be published. I hope it won't make a case for special treatment. Unlike the other cultural institutions I have mentioned, the Royal Opera House is marginal, truly the odd one out of the five.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Black people call each other niggers, so why does it matter if white people say that?"
Neil Acourt, witness in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, responding to accusations of racism

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The unexamined life is not worth living."
Socrates,
Greek philosopher



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Unlike the British Library, the opera house is not central to the nation's cultural activities

a year grant be doubled. But the most pressing case may be the British Library.

The British Library is not only the place where one finds the earliest manuscript of the complete New Testament, the oldest surviving Buddhist texts, the Lindisfarne Gospels, two copies of the Gutenberg Bible, the first collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, and the manuscript containing the lyrics of the Beatles' single "I Want to Hold Your Hand"; it is also the United Kingdom's national library. It has been receiving a copy of every British publication since the Copyright Act of 1842. To access and to make available this vast store of knowledge, around

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The Washington Times
If only the world were a talk show, Mr Clinton would solve all its problems. But it's not. Though Mr Clinton was allowed to push freedom on Chinese state television, the Chinese, police have been quietly rounding up dissidents and activists, making sure they got no chance to talk to the visiting press. By now, Mr Clinton ought to have learned first hand that engaging the Chinese is no straightforward matter.

Hong Kong Standard
It is perhaps natural for a

powerful nation to flex its economic and military muscles. The question is whether it is doing so tactfully, discreetly and with compassion and respect for the interests and concerns of others.

Times of India
The righteous presidential rhetoric on Tiananmen Square, human rights, Tibet, religious freedom etc appears to be a charade to hide Mr Clinton's complicity in China's proliferation efforts. In 1971, one US president, Richard Nixon, looked away from the massive

genocide in Bangladesh and wooed Mao Zedong at the height of the Cultural Revolution, all in the name of winning China over to his side.

Twenty-seven years later, another US president is joining hands with the same authoritarian power responsible for wrecking non-proliferation norms, this time for commercial gains. That president resigned under the threat of impeachment. This one is under investigation for various alleged misdemeanours. It is



MONITOR

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
Reaction to the Clinton-Jiang debate on Chinese television

now up to the US Congress and public to investigate why their country is striking an alliance with the proliferator against the victim of the proliferation activity.

The Straits Times, Singapore
China's state-controlled newspapers yesterday hailed the "broad and important consensus" reached between China and the United States during the summit the day before. The story which would have attracted the most interest was

the one on the 75-minute presidential press conference, which China Central Television aired live. The Chinese-language dailies, however, blacked out coverage of these issues. They published only the texts of prepared speeches made by the two leaders at the start of the media session. Three-quarters of the space was devoted to Mr Jiang's speech although it had lasted only eight minutes compared to Mr Clinton's 20-minute address. And none of the dailies published any commentary on the summit's outcome.

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The day I turned into a Frenchman

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ROBERT FISK
The reality is that a full-scale war of independence is now underway in Kosovo

BELGRADE HAS a strange effect on visitors. Slobodan Milosevic lives in a nondescript villa in the suburbs, but Tito's ghost still haunts the city. Every afternoon, the big trains rumble across the iron bridge over the Danube from Budapest and Berlin. The narrow streets of Stari Beograd have been prettified in the post-sanctions years and look like the lanes of old Zagreb or Vienna. *Sveta Loka* was performed at the National Theatre last week, along with *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The Belgrade Philharmonic has just been celebrating its 75th anniversary with a performance of Mahler's Third Symphony.

Belgrade still wears the clothes of greatness, the powerful capital of a prosperous nation called Yugoslavia, head of the non-aligned world, defier of Stalin, socialist friend of the West. Could this be why we hear so much, on the lips of our European diplomats, the magic words "Yugoslav Federation"? I heard it in Kosovo two weeks ago when a Foreign Office man was explaining his hopes for the 90 per cent ethnic Albanian province that is run by Serbia's 10 per cent minority. The future lay, he told us, with "meaningful negotiation within the Yugoslav Federation".

Memory, in the Balkans, is an elusive quality. Less than five years ago, we never heard those words Yugoslav Federation. We heard only the word "Serbia". Serbia was to blame for the Bosnian war, our diplomats told us. Serbia, the unpalatable, Serbia, the brutal, Serbia, the expansionist state of Milosevic. No respectable diplomat - save perhaps for the poor old, muddled Greeks - would be seen dead with the Yugoslav Federation as a fellow traveller. Yet now, with Kosovo in flames, we are all paying our respects to it. Anything, it seems, is preferable to another Balkan disintegration - especially if the next break-up means changing the national frontiers of old Yugoslavia.

There was a time, when the Americans were sticking the Dayton agreement together in the autumn of 1995, when we might have got away it. We all loved Mr Milosevic then because we needed his help in creating the new, grotesquely divided Bosnian state. The Albanians of Kosovo, having



Serbian police beat ethnic Albanians during riots last weekend in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo province

had their autonomy taken from them by Mr Milosevic six years earlier, wanted us to help them. But they were told to get lost. I suspect that's when the Yugoslav Federation, purged in 1991, was hauled out of its prison cell and restored to its former office. The most the Albanians could expect was the return of their limited autonomy, if they were lucky.

Europe and the United States, Nato and, indeed, Russia, meanwhile adopted the principle of the lazy fireman: they took the day off unless they smell smoke. Thus they ignored the gentle, intellectual demands of Ibrahim Rugova, the democratically elected "president" of the non-existent Albanian Kosovo state. Only now, when the fire alarm has sounded and black smoke is - quite literally - curling up into the hot skies above Kosovo, does the world rush to hear what Mr Rugova has to say. And he is already irrelevant.

I recall our intake of breath last month when the spokesman of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the guerrilla force which now controls a third of the province, announced

that "political pluralism is a luxury" in the current conflict. He was denying Rugova any role in the coming struggle. Autonomy was no longer on the agenda. The Albanians of Kosovo wanted independence. Yet still we went on pretending that this was untrue. The American and British ambassadors set off to tour Kosovo, but on roads carefully chosen to avoid any KLA checkpoints. It wouldn't do to jump into those unhelpful militiamen who don't want what we are generously offering them: a return to limited self-rule in the Yugoslav Federation.

The illusions go further than geography. In all the statements from Washington and London, expressing their horror at the ethnic cleansing of south-western Kosovo by Milosevic's police forces, there is scarcely a reference to the KLA, other than vague calls for "restraint" and "an end to violence".

True, Milosevic's own brutality and crude political logic created the Kosovo crisis. But the West refuses to acknowledge that the Serbs in Kosovo are fighting a full-scale guerrilla war and that arms are in-

deed pouring over the border of that same Yugoslav Federation, which we apparently now respect, to fuel an Albanian insurrection.

Not once have we heard any reference to this arms smuggling by Western leaders. Despite all the photographs of multi-trains carrying rifles and anti-tank weapons across the Albanian-Kosovo border, the fighting is still portrayed as a case of Albanian dispossession by racist Serbs. And while we continue to lecture the Serbs - correctly - about the need to withdraw their cruel security forces from Kosovo, the KLA are continuing their ambushes on those same Serb militiamen. Yes, the KLA would also like the Serbs to withdraw, but not because they want to sit down and discuss autonomy afterwards.

Whether we like it or not, Kosovo is moving towards independence. But there is much concern about the failure of the KLA to outline any serious political policy for the future. "Privately, we all feel disappointed at the lack of any intellectual arguments from the KLA," an Albanian journalist told me.

"They say they want independence but they don't say what kind of independence, what kind of democracy we can have. Is this supposed to mean unity with Albania? Is this supposed to involve the Albanians of Macedonia?" Other Kosovo Albanians are prepared to contemplate a transition autonomy, a period of years in which the 10 per cent Serb population of Kosovo would be given guarantees of security for themselves, their land and their religious sites under an Albanian government.

To his credit, the US envoy Richard Holbrooke did do the unthinkable in Kosovo last week and drove right up to a KLA checkpoint and - horror of horrors - talked to the gunmen he found there. It was a symbolic meeting only, but he at least acknowledged that the KLA were now people with whom the West will have to talk. Now the Americans have acknowledged secret talks with KLA officials in Europe.

It's easy to see the dangers. If the Albanians of Macedonia, all 25 per cent of them, want to be part of a new Albania, would not Greece

and Serbia (and Bulgaria) want to consume what was left of Macedonia? Turkey and Greece - already enjoying another fruitless crisis over Cyprus - could go to war over Macedonia's break-up. And then where would we be? So why not throw those upstart Albanians a few morsels - legalisation of the Albanian language, jobs in state institutions, the reopening of the university for Albanians and a local government - and the whole of Kosovo will resign itself to another half-century of Balkan torpor.

The reality is that a full-scale war of independence is now under way in Kosovo. The West is going to have to deal openly with the KLA and to talk swiftly to the guerrilla leadership about their ultimate objectives. Only last week, the Serbs lost an entire state mining operation to the guerrilla forces; it is only a matter of time before the immensely wealthy Trepcina mines north of Pristina themselves come under threat. An international mandate for Kosovo may ultimately be the only guarantee of a Serb future in the province - even if Mr Milosevic does not yet realise this.

RIGHT OF REPLY

NEIL GREATREX

The President of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers argues that the coal industry should be saved

YES, IT does matter if our coal industry dies out. Not just for our mining communities, who have suffered enough with the closure of 200 collieries and the loss of 250,000 jobs in the past 20 years, but in the interests of electricity consumers, who are paying at least £240m a year in higher-than-necessary bills.

For years now, the coal industry has sought fairness, not favours. Up until now, it has had neither. The botched privatisation by the Conservatives of first electricity and then the coal industry gave Labour an energy industry legacy which it will take years to unravel.

Coal has had to "compete" in the electricity market against a high-cost nuclear industry which, until recently, received a subsidy of over £1,000m a year from a tax imposed on the domestic electricity bill of every domestic consumer in the UK. The same tax today still provides a financial prop for high-cost "renewables". Coal has had to compete with state-subsidised French electricity being cabled into the UK, and with subsidised imports.

Coal has lost over half of its share of the electricity market to gas in the past seven years. This was not because gas costs are cheaper - but because the price of electricity from coal has been kept artificially high to protect the investment of the generators in their new gas plant with its attendant ring-fenced sales contracts.

If costs were the determining factor, coal would remain the dominant fuel for power generation. It generates the cheapest electricity. That is a fact now accepted by the Government and the electricity industry's regulator. Margaret Beckett should not bow to the legal threats of the American companies which now control so much of the UK's generating and distribution market. Overhauling the electricity trading arrangements will peg back the gross profits they are in a frenzy to protect, give consumers a better deal, and provide the fairness the coal industry has been seeking.

Free verse joins the free market

A CRITIC in search of a subject should always choose contemporary poetry. Volumes of poetry are a quicker read than *Little Dorrit*, and require a minimum of scholarly labour. Nobody has to sweat over Craig Raine's manuscripts as they do over Rilke's. When the Irish poet Patrick Kavanagh got wind of a well-beeled American scholar on the prowl in Dublin for poets' original manuscripts, he wrote his own in the back of a pub.

Modern poetry can be difficult, but if you don't understand it you can always talk about the poet's haunting obliquity. For another thing, poetry is a peculiarly privileged genre in England, and writing or analysing it a sign of one's spiritual maturity. It allows the critic the chance both to be delicately perceptive and to combine sensitivity with social awareness. Poems hint at social conditions, so that a critic can feel fashionable engaged. But since poems are usually political in indirect ways, they don't demand the kind of full-blooded approach that would be unpopular in a post-political age.

It is no surprise, then, that the area is as well-populated by critics as it is. One opens Sean O'Brien's new study of contemporary British and Irish poetry with a dreary sense of déjà vu. Here, for the umpteenth time, are studies of Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney, Tony Harrison and Peter Porter.

The arthritic O'Brien, however, manages to rise above the staleness of his genre. These compellingly readable essays are lively without being bumptious, and judicious without being dull.

O'Brien's title hints at his general case about English poetry today. Just as British society has been thoroughly Thatcherised, so poetry has been taken out of the hands of collective orthodoxies like Modernism or the Movement and privatised. Poet-



TUESDAY BOOK

THE DEREGULATED MUSE
BY SEAN O'BRIEN, BLOODAXE BOOKS, £10.95

ic monopolies have been dismantled into a medley of literary free-marketers, so that one would be hard put to say what Fleur Adcock and Tom Paulin, or John Fuller and Peter Reading, have in common. We no longer live in an age of avant-gardes and manifestos, house-styles and cultural movements.

This is a sound enough point, though the cynical might see it as a thin rationale for pulling such a disparate bunch of writers inside the same covers. It also ignores the extent to which contemporary English poets, though they may lack a common ideology, share a tacit consensus about what a poem is. The prototypical

modern English poem is brief, ironic and disenchanted, a cunning mixture of colloquial and figurative language which culminates in a stray, clinching insight. If it avoids the high-toned rhetoric of Modernism, it also steers clear of the aggressive flatness of the Movement.

But O'Brien is right to see that English poetry today is post-orthodox - even, one might add, post-post-orthodox. The post-orthodox are those who still live in the shadow of some mighty literary figure or current; we live in the shadow of Philip Larkin, which hardly blots the landscape as dauntingly as an Eliot or an Auden. The survey is crammed with



Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes: 'post-orthodox' poets

insights which refuse to flaunt their own cleverness. Geoffrey Hill is a "sullenly superior malcontent" who plucks sensuous shapes out of half-abstractions, while Derek Mahon's verse is cluttered with hard-edged objects like hubcaps, oldrums, crabs and bathos. Claran Carson's writing is "a blend of pearly, feverish aestheticism and warm, minutely detailed ordinariness". The patriotism of Ted Hughes is really just another version of his celebrated primitivism. Craig Raine goes in for a kind of serious showing-off, and produces at his worst a "sophisticated vulgarity, loudly pointing at things without quite seeing them".

The book keeps a reasonable balance between eminences grises - Larkin, Hill, Hughes, Heaney - and enfants terribles such as Simon Armitage and Peter Reading. It has an excellent section on the Irish, though Maebh McGuckian is oddly absent, contains a clutch of Scots, and throws in one or two avant-gardists like Roy Fisher.



Loosely linking this assorted bunch is a meditation on Englishness, all the way from the end-of-empire nostalgia of Larkin and Hill to social class in Tony Harrison and the theme of nationhood in Scots such as Douglas Dunn and Robert Crawford. The period O'Brien writes about is the era in which, at least as far as writing goes, "English" ceased to denote a nation and became the name of a language. As a Cambridge undergraduate in 1970, O'Brien applied for permission to write an essay on Seamus Heaney, only to be informed by the English faculty that "Seamus O'Heaney" was not considered a suitable subject for study. They did, however, direct him to RS Thomas, no doubt in the time-honoured English belief that one Celt is as good as another.

TERRY EAGLETON

The reviewer is Warton Professor of English Literature at Oxford University.

TUESDAY POEM

MIRROR IMAGE
BY LOUISE GLÜCK

Tonight I saw myself in the dark window as it contained nothing: even my mother's voice couldn't make him change or turn back as he believed that once you can't love another human being you have no place in the world.

Taken from 'Generations: Poems between Fathers, Mothers, Daughters and Sons', edited by Melanie Hart and James Loader (Penguin, £14.99)

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A. H. Gerrard

FEW TEACHERS have been as revered as A. H. Gerrard. Kindness, generosity of spirit and unselfishness are terms frequently used of the man who taught for over 40 years at the Slade School of Fine Art, where he was Professor of Sculpture from 1949 to 1968, when he retired as Emeritus Professor. "In India they have a word for it, *Mahatma* - great soul," wrote his former student F.E. McWilliam, in the catalogue of Gerrard's retrospective at the South London Art Gallery in 1978.

That show was a revelation. Like many born teachers, Gerrard, while working assiduously, had spurned self-exhibition. There were important public commissions, but no courting of dealers. For Gerrard that meant artistic restraint and publicity and he and his first wife, Katherine, also Slade-trained, preferred a quiet life to work uninterrupted.

For almost 40 years from the early 1930s they shared an old dairy house in Kent, where Katherine ("Kaff") created a superb garden. They kept donkeys and cats and Gerrard worked on portrait busts, major carved sculptures, paintings and wood engravings.

In 1991, long after his wife's death, Gerrard was persuaded to exhibit Kaff's work at Canterbury Art Gallery. She was unknown as a painter. Visionary landscapes were seen for the first time even by friends. Gerrard would not sell any paintings, Kaff having said that burning was better. Public galleries were offered a choice, and 48 pictures were distributed. The Imperial War Museum and, tardily, the Tate Gallery were among recipients.

By the time of his marriage, in 1933, Gerrard had carried out impressive commissions. His huge *Memorial to a Hunter* was the first piece of sculpture to be exhibited in the gardens of the Tate, in 1926. In 1927, he was commissioned by the Aeolian Hall to illustrate with woodcuts the *Life of Beethoven*, for which Gerrard toured sites associated with the composer. Probably his most publicised work was the North Wind carving, on the Underground Railway offices at 55 Broadway, Westminster, part of an ambitious 1928 scheme to which Eric Aumonier, Jacob Epstein, Eric Gill, Henry Moore, Sam Rabinovitch and Allan Wyon also contributed.

The 1930s saw more commissions in bronze and stone and murals for ocean liners. Gerrard remains unknown as a painter and wood engraver, but completed some singular work - in 1924 with his wife he made casts for *Elephants and Ethnologists* by G. Elliott Smith, and *Egyptian Mummies*, by the same writer with Warren R. Dawson. He also completed 31 engravings for *The Book of Bath* (1925), by various authors.

Alfred Horace Gerrard was born in Hanford, Cheshire, in 1899 and grew up on a farm that had been in the family for 400 years. He was the youngest of five, and his chief joy was nature and animals. He was a direct descendant of John Gerard, author of the important 1597 *Herbroll*. In later life, Gerrard picked the leaves of sea spurge and became violently ill. On checking the *Herbroll* he found that his ancestor had similarly been poisoned.

Gerrard left Northwich Technical School and from 1916 saw war service with the Cameron Highlanders, Black Watch, Gordon Highlanders and Royal Flying Corps. Although tall and thin, he was prodigiously strong, able to cope with 25-mile marches under heavy kit, typically aiding others not so tough.

With less than two hours' instruction he flew solo, in Morris-Farmers and FE2Bs, bamboo structures and

After the Second World War Gerrard re-equipped the Slade's sculpture department with quantities of stone, wood and iron from bomb sites

wings covered with cellulose-painted linen fabric. Because night bomber pilots were scarce he was sent up solo without night-flying instruction. For six consecutive nights fellow flyers in his billet were killed.

On one occasion Gerrard took up a Morris-Farmer and noticed people running about below holding a wheel. Half his undercarriage was hanging off, so he crash-landed but suffered no injury. During the Second World War, while working in camouflage, he again crash-landed, the resulting jolt curing the earlier injury.

He was discharged in 1942 with multiple injuries after a plane crash while photographing. When surgeons wanted to amputate his badly crushed right arm, in a semi-conscious state he swore loudly at them, and thus saved it to sculpt again.

Between 1944-45 he was a war artist. After the Manchester School of Art in 1919, Gerrard had studied under Professor Henry Tonks at the Slade from 1920. He knew how to deal with the formidable Tonks, and even accompanied him on a working holiday in Holland. Tonks appointed him head of sculpture in 1925, and would have liked Gerrard

to succeed him when he retired as Slade Professor in 1950 but this did not prove possible. Gerrard would have declined the offer, disliking administration. Instead, his part-legacy is a string of notable pupils, including Kenneth Armitage, Karin Jonzen and Eduardo Paolozzi.

Gerrard returned from war service to the Slade in 1946, became its acting head in 1948 and in 1949 was appointed Professor of Sculpture, the year that William Coldstream became Slade Professor. In 1950 Gerrard travelled to Nigeria as visiting professor, serving in a similar role at Bristol, Reading, Courtyard Court, Camberwell and Oxford.

His own work continued, often on a large scale. A landmark was in 1960, when the Royal Society of British Sculptors granted him its silver medal for his sculptured wall *The Dance*, exhibited in Battersea Park.

The legend of Gerrard's generosity grew. He invited McWilliam to join the staff in 1947. He found a war-depleted department which Gerrard was re-equipping not by appealing to committees, but by resorting to bomb sites, from which he flooded the Slade with vast quantities of stone, wood and iron. Gerrard created an efficient modelling stand from railway axles.

The only other member of staff was his assistant Albert, born deaf. Gerrard taught him to lip-read, to make fairly intelligible speech and to become a competent caster.

Post-war austerity hit the students' Slade Dinner ood year. It was saved when Gerrard drove his Land Rover up from Kent stuffed with enough chickens to feed several hundred. Potent homemade wine and beer was provided, although Gerrard's Wesleyan upbringing had made him a lifelong abstainer.

Gerrard went on sculpting into his eighties and in his later years was still drawing his cat Tommy. A stream of former students would visit him in the country, bringing their students to work in the studio.

"Gerry" remained a recognisable figure over the decades, partly due to his clothes. In the 1920s he had decided that a sports coat, corduroy trousers, collarless shirt and a yellow stock were the ideal garb. So he bought dozens of each, and thereafter commonly wore them, noted McWilliam, "thus solving satisfactorily one of life's perennial problems".

David Buchanan

Alfred Horace Gerrard, artist and teacher: born Hanford, Cheshire 7 May 1899; Head of Sculpture, Slade School of Fine Art 1925-38; Acting Head 1948; Professor of Sculpture 1949-68 (Emeritus); married 1933 Katherine Leigh-Pemberton (died 1970); 1972 Mary Sinclair (died 1995); 1995 Karen Sinclair; died Leywood, Kent 13 June 1998.



Gerrard in his studio in the 1980s and, below, in a plane during the Second World War



Alfred Palca



Sidney Poitier in *Go, Man, Go!* (1954), which Palca produced

WELL-MADE and well-received, *Go, Man, Go!* (1954) featured Sidney Poitier in an early screen role and the famous basketball team the Harlem Globetrotters as themselves. Described by Bosley Crowther, film critic of the *New York Times*, as "a lively little independent picture that rates solid approval as a credible sports romance", it was the story of the team's real-life discoverer, the basketball coach Abe Saperstein (Dane Clark) and his long fight to bring the "trotters" to international fame.

Although the film's opening credits read "Original Screenplay by Arnold Becker, Produced by Anton J. Leader", it was actually written and produced by Alfred Palca. The previous year Palca had been accused of being a Communist, and, as he later put it, "The movie got out, but my career was phibbit." The only way he could secure a release for *Go, Man, Go!* was to credit his brother-in-law (his assistant on the produc-

tion) as producer, and his cousin (a paediatrician) as screenwriter.

Palca's all-too-short screen career began and ended with the Globetrotters; three years before making *Go, Man, Go!*, he had written and co-produced *Harlem Globetrotters*, in which Dorothy Dandridge and the team's player Billy Brown appeared, with Thomas Gomez playing Saperstein. It did well, but, feeling it could have been better, Palca wrote *Go, Man, Go!*, raising \$175,000 from various investors, including his father-in-law. "I'm an old lefty," he told Bruce Weber in the *New York Times*. "And I thought I could do something to help the blacks."

Palca had begun in show business as a comedy writer, working in television and writing night-club material for comedians in Los Angeles and New York. He signed various petitions, joined many left-wing organisations, and identified with the socialist ideals professed by the Soviet Union. "I was naive," he told Weber. "I thought of it

as a sharing society. And I'm embarrassed by it now."

It was while Palca was making *Go, Man, Go!* that two FBI men accused him of being a Communist, although he had never been a member of the Party. Throughout the filming, the agents returned, urging him to clear himself by turning informer. Finally, Palca asked them if they would be interested in investing in his film. He told Weber: "It was my way of saying 'I'm not interested in your offer any more than you're interested in mine.'"

Speaking of his film writing, Palca said, "I was never that good. Others did it better than I, working with fronts." He supported his family over the next four decades by writing magazine articles, television shows and collaboration on *The Couple*, a non-fiction book about sex. He also wrote the libretto for a musical about Israel, but, before he could find a producer, along came *Milk and Honey* (1961), a Jerry Herman show with the same setting.

In 1971 he worked with Elaine May on the screenplay of the comedy *A New Leaf*. May, who also directed the film, had an altercation with Palca during its making, and his name was conspicuous by its absence on the credits. "I thought my career would become awakened with Elaine," he later said, "but it didn't."

On 29 September 1937 - 50 years after the House Committee on Un-American Activities began its unconstitutional purge of Communists and Communist sympathisers in the motion picture industry - the Writers Guild of America changed the credits on 21 films written by blacklisted members during the witch-hunt era. *Go, Man, Go!* was one of the 21.

"It should have been 40 years ago," said Palca. "And my life, obviously, would have been different."

Dick Vosburgh

Alfred Palca, writer, producer: born 1920; married (one son, one daughter); died New York 18 June 1998.

Curly Chalker

THE STEEL guitar is today synonymous with country music. Born out of the craze for all things Hawaiian that swept America in the early years of the century, its acceptance within the country genre was, however, surprisingly slow.

Originally a standard acoustic guitar with raised strings, played using a metallic bar, it took the advent of the electric pickup and the instrument's widespread adoption by bands playing western swing (the hillbilly answer to jazz) to propel it into the country mainstream. Once there, it furnished country music with its definitive sound, becoming the evocative backdrop to thousands of hits. Curly Chalker proved one of its most notable and innovative exponents.

Whilst his earliest work was heavily indebted to the warm tonal palette of his hero Jerry Byrd, Chalker found himself drawn increasingly to the jazz stylings of the West Coast pioneers Joaquin Murphy and Speedy West. His later output, while still retaining his trademark tone - he used, unusually, a C6 tuning - reflected this interest and has proved of seminal influence upon subsequent players.

Harold Lee "Curly" Chalker began playing the lap steel guitar while still in his teens and made his professional debut in the nightclubs of Cincinnati. By the early 1950s he was touring Texas with Lefty Frizzell, a singer whose meteoric rise to superstardom was followed by an equally meteoric decline. Chalker played on the 1951 Dallas sessions that resulted in the Frizzell classics "Always Late (With Your Kisses)" and "Mom and Dad's Waltz". He then joined Hank Thompson's Brazos Valley Boys, contributing fine work to both "Cryin' in the Deep Blue Sea" and his successful flip-side, "The Wild Side of Life" (1952).

Following a two-year stint in the armed forces, Chalker joined the Ozark Jubilee radio show, based in Springfield, Missouri, backing both Red Foley and Porter Wagoner, and acquired a pedal steel, with its daunting array of levers, pedals and strings. Some players, Jerry Byrd included, refused to have anything to do with the pedal steel, but Chalker was among those who fully explored and exploited its range.

In 1959 he relocated to Las Vegas where he played behind the fiddler Wade Ray and later joined the band of the long-time Golden Nugget fixture Hank Penny. The multi-instrumentalist and future star Roy Clark was a bandmate and became a friend.

In 1965 Chalker moved to Nashville, and was immediately in demand as a session musician. The following year he cut an album for Columbia. Produced by fellow steelie Pete Drake and entitled *Big Hits On Big Steel*, it featured instrumental versions of contemporary pop successes. Chalker's session work included appearances on Simon and Garfunkel's 1969 hit "The Boxer" and in 1973, with Marie Osmond, on "Paper Roses". In 1976, he briefly joined forces with the hot jazz violinist Joe Venuti, the guitarist Eldon Shamblin and the mandolinist Jehro Burns to record *S'Wonderful (Four Giants of Swing)* (1977), a dazzling fusion of jazz and country.

In the early 1980s, Chalker joined the staff band of the syndicated television show *Hee Haw*. Although some in the country music industry regarded it as an embarrassment, its cornball humour proved popular with rural audiences and Chalker's profile rose accordingly. It also gave him the chance to work, once again, with his old friend Roy Clark.

Eventually, Curly Chalker returned to Vegas, where ill-health led to his early retirement. In 1988 he was deservedly inducted into the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame.

Paul Wadey

Harold Lee "Curly" Chalker, steel guitarist: born Enterprise, Alabama 22 October 1931; married (one son); died Hendersonville, Tennessee 30 April 1998.

Ernst Brugger

FROM 1959 on, Swiss governments have been constructed on a complicated formula under which the Christian Democrats, Radical Democrats and Social Democrats each get two ministers, and the Swiss People's Party gets one. Nominations for the seven-member government must also consider Switzerland's language groups. Ernst Brugger was elected to the government at this time and awarded the Department of Public Economy. He was regarded as a model patriot, in touch with ordinary people, but one whose education had made him outward-looking.

Brugger was born in Bellinzona, a small, ancient town in southern Switzerland which is usually bypassed by tourists heading for the Italian lakes. He grew up in a secure environment when, even in Switzer-

land, there was considerable turbulence in inter-war society. As an engine driver on the Swiss railways, his father, Alois Brugger, was part of the working-class elite with secure job.

After studying at the universities of Zurich, London and Paris, Ernst joined another elite profession as a secondary school teacher in Gossau, 1936. He married a medical student, Lory Ringer, in the following year. Switzerland was under pressure from its mighty neighbour, Hitler's Germany, and the majority German-speakers were a special target for Nazi propaganda.

Gossau, a small industrial town, is not far from the German frontier. Brugger did his compulsory service in what were at that time the French-orientated armed forces. That he eventually rose to the rank of major reveals that he took mili-

tary service seriously, took courses and did his reserve training.

Brugger joined the middle-of-the-road Radical Democratic Party and became politically active. This was partly under the influence of the times, and also because party membership played an important part in public service. The Radicals recruited from among the secular middle classes, especially among the German-speaking Protestants.

In 1947 Brugger was elected to the council of the Canton, the Canton having powers similar to US states. From 1948 to 1959 he served as the mayor of Gossau, giving up this post when he was elected to the government of Zurich Canton. His departments were interior and justice. He had to deal with the then difficult relations between the Catholic Church and state, and the ever-present prob-

lem of cross-border workers. In his last two years, 1967-69, he had the economic portfolio in Zurich.

His two main problems in government were Switzerland's relations with the emerging European Economic Community to which its neighbours West Germany, France and Italy belonged, and the infinitely more difficult problem of foreign labour in Switzerland. Along with Switzerland's other EFTA partners, Brugger was able to negotiate a settlement of the first problem in 1972. It brought some relief for the Swiss watch and clock industry.

The second problem brought out strong passions on both sides of the arguments. Roughly 20 per cent of Switzerland's work force were foreigners, the largest group being Italians. They were followed by Germans and Spaniards. There were sig-

nificant groups from Austria, Czechoslovakia, France and Yugoslavia. They faced severe restrictions, border medical checks, and, if they ever managed to become Swiss citizens, compulsory military service stretching well into middle age.

Dr James Schwarzenbach led the National Campaign Against Foreign Penetration of People and Homeland. Switzerland needed foreign labour to keep its economy expanding yet there were genuine fears that its character and way of life would disappear. Foreigners were welcomed as tourists, but were often cold-shouldered when they were recruited to work there. Swiss moving from one Canton to another in a different language group were not always welcome either. The matter came to a head in the referendum of 20 October 1974.

Schwarzenbach proposed an amendment to the Swiss constitution designed to effect a drastic reduction of the foreign population. On a turnout of almost 70 per cent, it failed by 1,691,870 votes to 878,739. Brugger, who was, for 1974, President of the Swiss Confederation (head of state), expressed his satisfaction with the result. He believed, however, that the vote showed that the government must work to stabilise the foreign population and then bring about a "moderate and organic reduction". The problem has remained an issue in Swiss politics and is a factor when Swiss membership of the European Community is discussed.

Brugger resigned from political office on medical grounds in 1978. However, he presided over the Swiss People's Bank for some years until 1985 and was involved in various



Ernst Brugger, politician: born Bellinzona, Switzerland 10 March 1914; married 1937 Lory Ringer (five sons); died Gränichen, Switzerland 21 June 1998.

David Childs

Curly Chalker is a writer and dancer. She has written for the Independent and other newspapers. She is also a dancer and has performed in various venues. She is currently working on a book about her life and career.

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Elisabeth Schooling

ELISABETH SCHOOLING was one of a small band of people who took part in the birth of British ballet and its exciting creative ferment.

She worked as a dancer with Antony Tudor and Frederick Ashton, young men of artistic adventure who were to become the greatest choreographers Britain has yet produced. Her easy lightness of movement and musical sensitivity earned her a wide variety of roles. And even if she did not reach the heights of ballerinahood of a few of her contemporaries, her remarkable memory for steps – not only the ones she danced herself, but complete ballets – meant she was in demand for the staging of revivals.

Her dancing career evolved almost exclusively within Ballet Rambert (later Rambert Dance Company), Britain's first repertory ballet company, founded in 1920 after two seasons at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. She became a student with Marie Rambert in 1928 and danced in the company's first seasons, for which Ashton, Tudor and Andree Howard made ballets. *Mermaid*, choreographed collaboratively by Howard and Susan Salaman in 1934, to music by Ravel, gave Schooling her first original solo role, as the Bride.

She could claim to have been the inspiration for Ninette de Valois' *Bar aux Folies-Bergère* the same year, which took Manet's painting as its starting point and had a scenario by Marie Rambert's husband, the dramatist Ashley Duke. Schooling bore a distinctive resemblance to Manet's barmaid, which prompted the idea of a ballet in Duke's mind. "Ashley used to chuck her under the chin whenever he passed her and say, 'There goes Manet's Fille au Bar'," Marie Rambert wrote in her autobiography *Quicksilver*. The ballet, to music by Chabrier, was well received, but de Valois insisted on the more experienced Pearl Argyle as the barmaid. Schooling, however, got her chance later in this central role, becoming, according to Marie Rambert, a very convincing interpreter.

It was not long before she had a succession of parts made on her. She was cast in other ballets by Howard, among them an Ugly Sister in *Cinderella* (opposite the choreographer as the other sister) in 1935 and the Little Girl in the *Carnival of the Animals* in 1945. She was one of the original soloists in Tudor's *Suite of Airs*, premiered in 1937 on BBC television before being taken into

the Rambert repertory. Tudor also featured her prominently in several of his existing ballets: as Hebe in *The Descent of Hebe*, Caroline in *Jardin aux Lilas*, Venus in *Judgement of Paris*, and the French ballerina in *Gala Performance*. Similarly, Ashton chose her to take on many of Alicia Markova's roles in his ballets, such as the Polka and *Débutante* in *Façade*, the Etolée in *Foyer de Danse*, and Marguerite in *Mephisto Valse*.

She danced the first ballets of Frank Staff, a fellow Rambert dancer whom she married. An upbeat trio called *The Turkeys* (1938), to music by Boyce, was a new version of a ballet by Ashton and Rambert noted in *Quicksilver*. "Elisabeth Schooling was very fetching in her Scots Grey hat and kilts, with Staff and (Walter) Gore as her partners – a most delicious suite of dances." *Czernyana* (1939) used Czerny's piano exercises for a series of dances caricaturing different kinds of ballet; Schooling's dance was a witty and subtle solo called "Presque Classique". *Czernyana* became such a hit that Staff choreographed a sequel,

She could claim to have been the inspiration for Ninette de Valois' 'Bar aux Folies-Bergère'; she bore a distinctive resemblance to Manet's barmaid

Czerny 2 (1941), in which he gave Schooling another solo, "Presque Jazz". An amalgam of the most popular numbers from both ballets remained in Ballet Rambert's repertory for a long time, under the original title *Czernyana*.

Schooling left Ballet Rambert on only two occasions: the first time during the Second World War, when the company closed for 18 months and she danced in *Tales of Hoffmann* at the Strand Theatre; the second, in 1945-46, when she danced seasons of *The Glass Slipper* at the St James's Theatre and in between toured South Africa with



Schooling in *Czernyana*, 1939

Photograph: Ballet Rambert

Staff. She and Staff returned to Ballet Rambert for its 1947-48 trip to Australia, after which she retired from performing.

She was much respected as a memory-bank of choreography and consequently enjoyed a parallel career as a producer and coach for revivals. As far back as 1935 Ashton turned to Schooling when he mounted his *Façade* for the Vic-Wells Ballet (the company which grew into the Royal Ballet). Ashton, like many choreographers, could not remember the steps in detail and asked Schooling to teach the Vic-Wells dancers. The Rambert company was also in-

debited to her in reviving ballets, as was Rudolf Nureyev for coaching him in Nijinsky's *L'Après-midi d'un faune*, a ballet with which he became closely identified.

Schooling found a happy life in Devon following her second marriage to a farmer, Michael Chaplin.

Nadine Meisner

Elisabeth Schooling, dancer, producer and teacher; born London, 1915; married first Frank Staff (one son; marriage dissolved), second Michael Chaplin; died Exeter 22 June 1998.

ARCHITECTURAL NOTES

SIMON BRADLEY

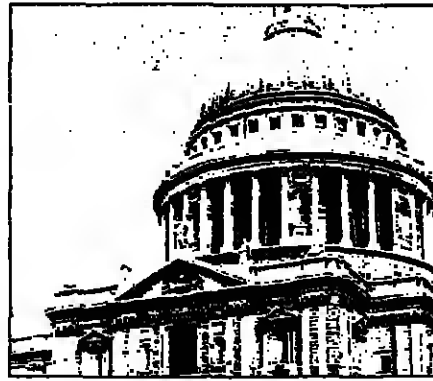
The salvation of the City churches

LOVERS OF London's City churches can relax for a moment, for they are safe again. Only four years ago, the Templeman Report threatened the 40 or so Anglican churches remaining with closure en masse. Templeman proposed a kind of triage system for the buildings, under which they were divided into active churches (those with big congregations), a second group of less active churches, and a third category, the largest by far, which were to be kept locked and weather-proof while their future was decided.

Templeman did not propose that any churches be demolished – such hurried redundancy would have been an ignominious fate. After all, the churches had survived much more aggressive foes than ecclesiastical down-sizing: Nazi air-raids, Victorian asset-stripping, clearance for new roads, even in some cases the Great Fire itself. Furthermore, the report showed amazing insensitivity to London's architectural tradition by insisting that not one of Sir Christopher Wren's famous City churches be kept in parochial use.

It went unremarked at the time that such plans for mass disposal were nothing new. The first attempt to weed out churches was in 1834. This was howled down, but a similar scheme was enacted in 1850. As a result, many little-used churches were demolished. Losses were fewer in Edwardian times, but another clean sweep was proposed in 1919. One City employee dismayed by this plan was a clerk of literary inclinations at Lloyd's Bank, a Mr T. S. Eliot. His famous evocation in *The Waste Land* of St Magnus the Martyr, with its "inexplicable splendour of Ionian white and gold", gains poignancy from a footnote to the poem drawing attention to the demolition scheme; another instance, for Eliot, of the spiritual malaise of the times. What changed attitudes for good was the Blitz, when the remaining churches, like St Paul's itself, became icons of national endurance. More than half of the 21 burnt-out churches were therefore restored when peace came. Many became the headquarters of Church organisations, under the so-called Guild Church scheme: an enterprising way of preserving them in use while keeping them as places of worship.

Richard Charteris, the new Bishop of London, has recently announced a return to the spirit of the Guild Church scheme.



St Paul's: icon of national endurance

He regards the churches as an asset rather than a liability and is keen to see them being used not just for worship but also for any other worthwhile functions and purposes. He has, therefore, established the City Churches Development Group, which is steadily finding new uses and new tenants for the churches and for the offices and vestries attached to them. One church, Wren's needle-spined St Margaret Patten in Fenchurch Street, will provide an appropriate home for the Friends of the City Churches.

What is remarkable is that this is being achieved without sacrificing the historic interiors of the buildings themselves. Whether their fittings date from before the Reformation or merely from the restorations during the Fifties and Sixties, almost all the City churches correspond inside to the traditional idea of a church interior. This is worth remembering as more and more churches elsewhere come up for "re-ordering" on the grounds that their interiors do not fit exactly the demands of the moment. In all too many cases this means ripping everything out in favour of fitted carpets and stackable chairs. Not every church interior is as rich in furnishings and atmosphere as those of the City, of course, but the City churches are worth bearing in mind as a model of how present uses can work in harmony with the fabric of the past.

Simon Bradley is the co-author, with Nikolaus Pevsner, of *London: the City churches*, published by Penguin, £9.99

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

READ: Suddenly, on Sunday 22 June, while on holiday in France, Henry, Coed y Dderw, Cefnallan, Aberystwyth, beloved husband of Christine and dear father of Robert, Judith, Mary and Timothy. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Mari Grifith, "Match of the Day (v): art, marriage and children; the partnership of Jan Mole-naer and Judith Leyster", 1pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Imogen Stewart, "Spitalfields Silk Design in the 18th Century", 3pm. British Museum: Jessica Harrison-Hall, "A History of Chinese Ceramics", 11.30am. National Portrait Gallery: Jacqueline Riding, "Art and Patronage in the 18th Century", 1.10pm. Wallace Collection, London W1: Suzanne Higgett, "Glass in the Wallace Collection", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr David Tang, to be President of the London Bach Society. Mr Gavyn Farr Arthur and Mr Brian Nicholas Harris, to be City of London Sheriffs.

BIRTHDAYS

Sir Max Brown, former senior civil servant, 84; Mr Richard Bull, former Head Master, Rugby School, 68; Mr Ian Hay Davison, chairman, NMB Group, 67; Mr John Doble, High Commissioner to Swaziland, 57; Mr Keith Grant, former director, Design Council, 64; Mr Tony Hatch, songwriter and lyricist, 59; Miss Lena Horne, singer, 81; Mr Walter James, former principal, St Catherine's, Windsor, 86; Lt-Gen Sir Henry Leask, former General Officer Commanding for Scotland, 85; Mr James Loughran, conductor, 67; Sir Eric Richardson, former director, Polytechnic of Central London, 83; Mr Brian Salmon, former chairman, J. Lyons, 81; Mr Mike J.K. Smith, cricketer and rugby player, 68; Mr Mike Tyson, heavyweight boxer, 32.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Gay, poet and playwright, 1685; George Anton (Jiri Antonin) Benda, harpsichordist, oboist and composer, baptised 1722; Vicomte Paul-François Jean-Nicolas de Barras, statesman, 1755; Tom Oliver, prize-fighter, 1789; Emile-Jean Horace Vernet, painter, 1789; Friedrich Theodor Vischer, art writer, 1807; Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, surgeon and botanist, 1817; Edward John Hopkins, composer and organist, 1818; Hervé (Florimond Ronger), composer, 1826; Sir Stanley Spencer, sculptor, 1891; Harold Joseph Laski, politi-

cian and economist, 1893; Walter Ulbricht, East German leader, 1893; Anthony Mann (Emil Anton Bundmann), film director, 1906; Susan Hayward (Edythe Marguerite), actress, 1918. Deaths: Montezuma II, Aztec emperor, killed 1520; Pieter van Laer (Laar), painter, 1642; Simon Vouet, painter, 1649; William Oughtred, mathematician and inventor of the slide rule, 1660; Alexander Bromé, poet, 1666; Abraham Gottlieb Werner, geologist, 1817; Charles Jules Guiteau, assassin of President Garfield, hanged 1882; John William Strutt, third Baron Rayleigh, physicist, 1919; Dr Lee De Forest, radio and sound engineer, 1961; Robert Chester Rusak, novelist, 1965; Margery Louise Allingham, novelist, 1966; Joan Rosita Forbes, traveller and writer, 1967; Nancy Freeman Mifflin, writer, 1973; Lillian Hellman, playwright, 1984. On this day: the Royalists were victorious at the Battle of Atherton Moor, 1648; the English and Dutch fleets were defeated by the French under Tourville at the Battle of Beachy Head, 1690; the Duc de Vendôme and the Duke of Marlborough's forces met at the Battle of Oudenarde, 1708; the naval Mutiny at the Nore was suppressed, 1797; the use of the pillory was abolished by Parliament, 1837; the Stamp Tax on newspapers was abolished in Britain, 1855; Blondin, the French acrobat, crossed Niagara Falls on a tightrope with a man on his back, 1859; the first annual meeting of the British Association was held at Oxford, 1860; the comic opera *The Nautilus Girl* was first produced, London, 1891; Tower Bridge in London was officially opened, 1894; an enormous natural explosion – took place in Siberia, its cause is yet to be explained, 1908; George Joseph Smith, the "Brides in the Bath" murderer, was found guilty, 1915; the first International Power Conference was held at Wembley, 1924; the "Night of the Long Knives" – Hitler's purge of the Nazis – took place, when Von Schleicher, Roehm and others were killed, 1934; the novel *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, was first published, 1936; Guernsey was occupied by German forces, 1940; the musical show *Oliver!* was first produced, London, 1960; Zaire became independent, 1960; Cardinal Montini was elected as Pope Paul VI, 1963; the Soviet spacecraft *Soyuz 11* returned to Earth but all three cosmonauts were found to be dead in their seats, 1971; the musical *Singin' in the Rain* was first produced, London, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Bertrand of Le Mans, St Emma, St Erentrude, St Martial of Limoges, St Theobald or Thibaud of Provins and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

LUNCHEONS

European-Atlantic Group Baroness Hooper presided at a luncheon held yesterday by the European-Atlantic Group

at the House of Lords, London SW1. Baroness Symons, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, was the guest speaker on Foreign Affairs. Baroness Farnham and Baroness Thomas also spoke. Among those present were: Sheila Sharda Amery, Lady Armstrong, Lady Burton, Lady Dalrymple, Lady Darnley, Countess Greer, Lady Hamilton, Lady Ladd, Jacqueline, Lady Knolly, Lady Knolly, Lady Knolly, Countess Ledochowska, Viscountess Montgomery, The Countess of Munster, Michael, Lady Renouf, Princess Shajnar Ara.

DINNERS

Inter-Parliamentary Union Mr David Marshall MP, Chairman, Inter-Parliamentary Union, hosted a dinner held yesterday evening on board RS Hispaniola, London SW1, in honour of a Parliamentary Delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, led by Mr Mai Thuc Lan MP Vice-Chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE

Sir Rodney Walker, Chairman, English Sports Council, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Overseas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's, London SW1. His subject was "The National Lottery and How It Has Changed the Prospects for Sport Within the UK". Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

Nairn, Kirkcaldy, Fife. The Princess Royal opens the Stewart Grand Prix factory, Tilbrook, Buckinghamshire; as President, Riding for the Disabled Association, visits the Elizabeth Curtis Centre for Disabled Riders Group, Bromham, Bedfordshire; and attends a dinner at the Royal

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London SE1, to celebrate 50 years of the National Health Service. The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Victorian Society, attends the society's 40th Anniversary Reception at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London SW1.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, visits the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, Clackmannanshire, the University of Aberystwyth, and Forbo-

Patient who does not object can be admitted

TUESDAY LAW REPORT 30 JUNE 1998

Regina v Bournemouth Community and Mental Health NHS Trust, ex parte L (Secretary of State for Health and others intervening)
House of Lords (Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nolan, Lord Steyn and Lord Hope of Craighead)
25 June 1998

A PATIENT who, although unable to consent, did not object, might be admitted to hospital for treatment under section 131(1) of the Mental Health Act 1983, and a patient thus admitted who was accommodated on an unlocked ward and who had made no attempt to leave could not be said to have been unlawfully detained.

The House of Lords allowed the appeal of the Bournemouth Community and Mental Health NHS Trust against the decision of the Court of Appeal that it had unlawfully detained the respondent, L.

L, a 48-year-old man, was autistic, profoundly mentally retarded, and unable to speak. He had always been incapable of consenting to medical treatment. After having been a resident of a hospital run by the appellant trust for over 30 years, he had been discharged into the community in 1994 and had gone to live with paid carers.

Whilst at a day centre which he attended regularly, he had become particularly agitated. His carers could not be contacted, and L was sedated and taken by ambulance to hospital. He was assessed by a psychiatrist as being in need of inpatient treatment. It was decided that it was unnecessary to detain him under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983, as he appeared fully compliant and did not resist admission.

L applied for, *inter alia*, judicial review of the trust's decision to detain him, and to continue to do so. The applications were dismissed. L appealed. The Court of Appeal held that he had been detained by

Lord Goff said that section 131(1) of the 1983 Act was in identical terms to section 5(1) of the Mental Health Act 1959, which had been designed to cure the mischief caused by the assumption that compulsory powers must be used unless the patient could express a positive desire for treatment, and to replace that by the offer of care, without deprivation of liberty, to all who needed it and were unwilling to receive it. The Court of Appeal had therefore been wrong to hold that the section applied only to patients who consented.

The issue of L's detention depended on whether the tort of false imprisonment, which required complete deprivation of, or restraint upon, a plaintiff's liberty, had been committed against him. Since he had, in fact, made no attempt to leave, and had been accommodated on an unlocked ward, it could not be said that he had actually been deprived of his liberty.

Although L had been discharged into the community, the trust remained responsible for his treatment. It was plainly the statutory intention that "informal patients" admitted under section 131(1) should receive such treatment might be in their best interests. Such treatment could be justified on the basis of the common law doctrine of necessity. All the steps taken in the present case had been taken in L's best interests, and, in so far as they might otherwise have constituted an invasion of his civil rights, had, accordingly, been justified.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
popinjay n. (derog.)

shynnyng lyke peccok". The OED suggests that describing someone as a popinjay was, at that time: "in a eulogistic sense, in allusion to the beauty and

rarity of the bird" though the examples cited smack of overweening pride. Walter Scott wrote "as pert and proud as any popinjay", but Ms Paglia was perhaps thinking more of a line in Henry IV: "I then, all-smarting, with my wounds being cold, (To be so pestered with a Popyngay)".

Bill: just a husband in a jam?

Linda Tripp may expose Clinton as no more than a man trying to keep his family together. By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

SHORT OF Bill or Monica telling all, today is the day that all Washington has been waiting for since January. Solid, blowzy, dogged Linda Tripp will enter the district court-house in Washington to defend the evidence that could tell a president. She has been demonised by many women and Clinton supporters for betraying a girlfriend's trust. She has been lauded by Clinton detractors for doing what she knew was right and sticking to her guns. And she has said nothing about anything since March.

Ms Tripp is the woman who used a concealed tape-recorder to document the confessions and complaints of 24-year-old Monica Lewinsky about her relationship with the President. She handed the tapes to a prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, who was already investigating other allegations against Mr Clinton, and she then agreed to be "wired" by the FBI to continue her sleuthing on their behalf.

With neither Ms Lewinsky nor Mr Clinton prepared to retract their sworn denials of an affair, Ms Tripp is Kenneth Starr's best hope of making his case. He wants to establish which version of Monica's story is true: the version on the tapes - with its salacious allusions to sex with the President - or her denial. And if he can prove that she (and therefore he) lied, he then wants to establish whether Mr Clinton tried - through threats or inducements - to buy her silence.

Legally, such allegations could support charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. Brought against a president, such charges could justify impeachment.

Until recently, the case seemed clear-cut, if unresolved. One way or another, Ms Lewinsky was lying. If she was lying on the tapes, she was a scheming fantasist. If she lied under oath, she was a perjurer, and so was Mr Clinton. He was also an adulterer and probably, given that Ms Lewinsky was a trainee at the White House when the alleged affair began in November 1995, a sexual harasser as well.

As the weeks have passed, however, what went on at the White House between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky (and no one has denied that something did) has begun to look both more complicated and perhaps more simple. And as more small pieces of evidence are reeled in by reporters desperate for new information and leaked by advocates keen to protect friends and patrons, a scenario is starting to take shape in which most of the information made public so far can be reconciled, however contradictory much of it seems.

The tale that looks likely to emerge is as old as the world and as basic, but less malign than suspected, and more confused than criminal.

Here is an older, immensely powerful man lionised by a young and sexually enterprising woman. He has a past, and a weakness for women. He also has a wife and daughter he cares for, a job that demands a certain image, and a private promise about how to conduct himself as President. She has healthy appetites and a future, and she believes, in the American way, that anything is possible.

That there was some sort of relationship between them seems incontrovertible. Photographs of Monica Lewinsky in Mr Clinton's presence show her wide-eyed and ecstatic, and corroborate reports that she

contrived to be near him. When asked about his relations with her, Mr Clinton has looked rueful and, initially, embarrassed.

No one contests reports that Ms Lewinsky was transferred to the Pentagon because she sought out the President, and that her behaviour was judged inappropriate. Details of White House entry logs, leaked to the New York Times, show Ms Lewinsky making dozens of visits to the presidential wing even after her transfer.

Yet for Mr Clinton to go on the record to deny an affair, as he has done three times - once under oath in the Paula Jones sexual harassment investigation, once in a television interview and once in a belligerent televised statement where he jabbed the air with his finger for emphasis - would be risky in the extreme unless he was confident of his innocence.

So far, the fragmentary and disparate evidence points in one direction. Lewinsky was lonely, hold and single-minded. Clinton was lonely and weak. She insinuated herself into his presence. They fooled around, but he set limits which, unless she is lying, he kept to. She grew frustrated, he became worried. The late-night visits

Mr Clinton 'wanted Chelsea, his daughter, to be proud of him and he wanted to be a good husband ...'

when Hillary was out of town, the phone calls (phone sex, according to the tapes), the presents, all added up to an affair which, by his definition, did not exist.

Other women of Mr Clinton's acquaintance have made complaints similar to those Ms Lewinsky voiced to her confidants: he courted them, fooled around, perhaps solicited oral sex, but rarely indulged himself further. The political cost of succumbing to temptation was too great.

Mr Clinton may have a past, but whether he carried it into the White House is another matter. A former White House employee, Gary Aldrich, claimed in a book that the President would escape incognito to a city hotel to meet a mistress during his first term, but he subsequently withdrew the allegation. As Ms Lewinsky's transfer attests, White House aides made efforts to remove temptation from his path.

But they did not fully succeed. Some reports suggest that Ms Betty Currie, Mr Clinton's private secretary, signed Ms Lewinsky in to the presidential wing of an evening. Others say that Ms Currie was absent on the days Ms Lewinsky was admitted, but her name was used on the log. What seems certain is that when the relationship ended, Ms Currie was the go-between, recovering presents and perhaps other evidence at the behest of Monica and - by then - her desperately worried mother.

Some of the pieces were filled in, perhaps unwittingly, by Dale Young, friend of the Lewinsky family and confidant to Monica, who testified to the investigation last week - then told *Newsweek* magazine what she had said. Her version has a ring of truth



Linda Tripp, who used a concealed tape-recorder to document the confessions of Monica Lewinsky

and spontaneity lacking from the heavily lawyered statements produced by others, and suggests an affair that never went beyond "a sort of foreplay" and was finally broken off by Mr Clinton in words that, even at third hand, have a perverse plausibility. According to Dale Young, quoting Ms Lewinsky, Mr Clinton "wanted Chelsea, his daughter, to be proud of him and he wanted to be a good husband and he didn't want to do anything like this any more."

Of course, there is room for scepticism about the truthfulness and motives of almost everyone involved. Is Linda Tripp an icon of rectitude, whose only thought in 20 hours of secret tape-recording was for the integrity of the US presidency - or did she have it in for the President as a political, personal and moral adversary? Was Luciane Goldberg, the New York literary agent who is believed to have leaked the first excerpted transcripts of the tapes, just trying to protect Ms Tripp's good name, or was she intent on besmirching the President, and leaked only the most damaging sections of the tapes to that end?

Was a second tranche of tapes, leaked to *US News and World Report* 10 days ago, intended to present Monica as a love-struck innocent and so protect Mr Clinton? And what does Monica mean by "sex"? (We know what Mr Clinton denies, as the question was posed in great detail when he was questioned by lawyers in the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit - and it includes oral sex and touching of genitalia.)

What emerges is a sordid tale of infatuation and embitterment on Ms Lewinsky's part, but an embitterment she has been reluctant to use against the President - according to some reports, because she still "adores" him. All of which might have been successfully controlled and concealed, had Ms Lewinsky not been summoned to testify in the Paula Jones case. Ms Jones's lawyers were gathering evidence about Mr Clinton's relations with women, and called - among half a dozen others - Ms Lewinsky.

At this point, a degree of panic seems to have gripped the White House, a fear that she might tell all under oath - or perhaps more than all, out of bitterness or over-eagerness to please. Word would then inevitably get back to Hillary and Chelsea, and to the press. There followed a desperate scramble to get her a job, out of government and out of town; perhaps to teach her and others (Linda Tripp, Betty Currie) some legal lines to keep the President out of trouble.

These are the actions - the job search, the legal instructions - that could be interpreted as attempts to pervert the course of justice. If the President has lied about the nature of the affair, that is what they are. But if his chief worry was that a possibly exaggerated version of his indiscretion would get back to his wife and daughter, something different is going on, something where the criminal law has no place.

In that case, when the truth is out, the President may look foolish and weak in one area of his life, but not nearly as foolish or weak as he would have looked had the affair progressed, and not - quite - a liar. He was just someone trying to keep his family together, who happened also to be President of the United States.

JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

4. THE MOBILE PHONE BY CLIVE ASLET, JOURNALIST

I AM a paid-up member of a mobile phone fan club. For too long it has been an unthinking assumption of polite society that this device, which facilitates conversation where conversation could never otherwise take place, is a work of Satan. Norman Lamont tried to tax it. Notices on railway trains require passengers to trudge into the no-man's land between carriages before using it. To produce one in a restaurant would be regarded as worse solecism than ordering red wine with fish. And yet every day I find myself offering a hymn of thanks to a benign Providence for creating mobile phones.

Of course, once one saved my life. (I exaggerate, but only for dramatic effect.) I had fallen from a horse in a field somewhere while out hunting, and it was a mobile phone carried by the Master of the hunt, by which the ambulance was summoned. But enough of personal reminiscences; let's start with the big picture. As the world becomes more lonely, we need to talk more. The whole trend of modern life is towards isolation. Anything which promotes human contact must be celebrated. Only the un-demonstrative English and dour Scots fail to realise this. In Italy, where to live is to speak, the mobile phone has grown into being a kind of extra limb, which could only be removed by

surgery. In bustling Hong Kong it seems to form a vital, semi-permanent connection between mouth and ear. As we sit down for lunch in the South China Club, its proprietor, that *uomo universale* David Tang puts his mobile on the table and declares the convention of the club: "here mobile phones are *de rigueur*."

In traditionalist Britain, the mobile phone user is made to feel a pariah. Elsewhere, the mobile is a symbol of personal success. Here, that may be its downfall. We are not comfortable with material success. Take the House of Lords: it is full of high-achieving people, but they seem to undergo a process of beatification when they enter this establishment heaven. The taint of commercial endeavour vanishes, and so do mobile phones. The doorkeepers interrogate visitors who, if found to be carrying them, must switch them off. Instead they use neo-Gothic oak telephone cabins, such as Pugin would have designed if telephones had been invented in the 1830s.

To me, the joys of the mobile are unending. Take one in a taxi: even the most hardened cabbie will realise he cannot continue to inflict his opinions on you once you have started to talk into it. Time that would otherwise have been wasted is transformed by the opportunity to dispose of all those calls you didn't quite

have time to make before you left. Barriers of space dissolve. With a mobile, you do not need to be in the office: you could just as well be in a garden, or by a swimming pool, or in a Turkish bath. The quilt of travel, which used to come from knowledge that almost any voyage, however modest, put you beyond the reach of colleagues, family and bank manager, is gone forever.

That is part of the problem. Gone so completely too, is it difficult to remember what it used to be like. The halt on the country road. The exasperation of finding that the telephone box was either occupied or not working. The infuriating discovery that the person to whom you absolutely had to speak was engaged. The tears of frustration when, at the next telephone box, you realised that it was after half past five and the person concerned had gone home. Yes, all those apparently medieval horrors are behind us and forgotten. Remember the builder who was never there? Now you just dial his mobile.

Imagine: the mobile phone is single-handedly responsible for one of life's greatest entertainments. Without it, we could no longer listen to all those intimate conversations - one half of them anyway - broadcast as though the person speaking was on the stage. Just think of how

many dull moments have been enlivened by trying to picture what sort of person the mobile user is talking to. What is his wife like? Is it really his wife? What strange manufactured item is the basis of that fellow's business? If it were not for the mobile, the pageant of life would pass before you with half its characters silent and unobserved. And you could never get the other half on the phone.

CLIVE ASLET
Clive Aslet is Editor of 'Country Life'



Mayhem in the sky

Continued from page one
competent. If there'd been any guys on there who were newly validated, I don't think they would have coped. You don't really want to think about the consequences. We do emergency training, but you can't really train someone to cope with that scenario. It was really bad, it was awful."

The mayhem lasted for around half an hour. The flow rate was reduced and traffic from Maastricht, Brussels and the North Sea was stopped from entering the sector while the controllers sought to empty the stacks. It had been a harrowing experience for all involved.

"I saw all the controllers just after they'd been relieved," one observer told me. "There was a woman who was physically shaking. She'd copied it quite bad, she was on the worst position. The rest of them were up in arms. They all marched up to the supervisor's desk, and there was a big shouting match going on about why they'd been put under so much pressure."

According to the official investigation report: "The actions taken prior to this incident are similar to those taken on other occasions which have led to successful conclusions. In the circumstances the decisions made were logical and based on sound information and past experience." The report concludes that "an over-delivery of traffic for Heathrow did occur" and that "the situation may have been mitigated by closer monitoring of the actual traffic situation by supervisory staff".

There is nothing in the report to suggest that in the



same circumstances, similar "mayhem" would not necessarily happen again. When a controller faces a situation in which the number of aircraft he has to deal with at any one time means that if one of them has a problem, he is unable to give it his full attention, he later files what is known as an "overload report". Following the events of 28 April, every controller on the Clacton sector filed one.

One controller told me he expected the number of overload reports to be filed at LATCC this year to rise to around 40 from last year's 12. The controllers are finding themselves more and more overloaded, and the strain is beginning to show. "The older controllers are feeling the pinch now, it's very obvious to all of us that they're struggling," a controller in his early thirties told me. "It's a young person's job nowadays, definitely. But I think even the younger element are now walking away at the end of a shift saying 'Bloody hell, that was busy'."

The number of controllers on long-term sickness leave, known ironically as "garden leave", has increased more than threefold since last year. Currently around 20 radar operators out of the 240 who work at LATCC are on sick leave lasting from one month to more than two years.

Some are suffering from serious back problems as a result of the horizontal screens they have to bend over, but most are suffering from stress-related illnesses. At least five have been prescribed Prozac to combat depression.

One ray of light for the controllers was to have been the new £163 million control centre at Swanwick in Hampshire. It was originally scheduled to be operational in 1996, but software problems have led to continuing delays. It is now scheduled to open in 2000, but many believe even this is optimistic.

Those controllers who have already moved house to be nearer the new centre face

many more months of lengthy commuting to West Drayton.

The recent announcement by Gordon Brown that the Government is to sell off a 51 per cent stake of National Air Traffic Services has further added to the controllers' worries. They fear that the private sector might cut costs at the expense of safety, and they are also concerned that one or more of the airlines might buy into NATS, leading to pressure on controllers to give their aircraft preferential treatment.

"People are braced off," one controller told me. "They expected to be down at the new centre over two and a half years ago, and they still don't really know when they're going. And now with this privatisation thing, it's just another sword of uncertainty hanging over their heads."

In the meantime, the traffic in our skies just gets busier, and life for our air traffic controllers gets more and more stressful. Things can only get worse, it seems, before they get better.

One year on: spot the difference

Fears that the handover would turn Hong Kong into a police state have, so far, been unjustified. Indeed, Peking's rule is no more invasive than the British presence. By Stephen Vines

In the year since the end of British rule in Hong Kong, the post-colonial spring-cleaners have been thorough in their work. Most signs of the former colonial administration have been expunged. Crown insignia have been banished, letterboxes painted a lurid green to obscure the red associated with the old masters. The Queen's head no longer graces coins and postage stamps.

As always with spring-cleaning, some things have been overlooked. In the bushes outside Government House, the former home and office of the Governor, there is a small stone post which bears the words "Governor's Residence". No doubt someone will get round to removing it. In the meantime, the building itself has been abandoned as a place of residence and is used only for the occasional official function.

The obsession with the removal of symbols is entirely typical of all changes of sovereignty, and so it is hardly surprising that Hong Kong's new order has been brisk in its work. Yet the extraordinary reality of what has become the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong (SAR) is that the new order, so keen to remove symbols of the past, has been equally keen to restore the past in the shape of recreating an abandoned form of colonial government.

The suggestion that Hong Kong has become a colony of China is quite unpalatable to the new rulers and will, no doubt, be greeted with shrieks of derision by their supporters.

However, what has become increasingly clear is that China's guiding principle in devising a new system for Hong Kong was to preserve the colonial form of rule. The new regime has brought back some of the worst colonial practices, designed to ensure that what the leaders in Peking call "the glorious reunification of the motherland" was in fact a means of keeping the new possession under the control of the Chinese Communist Party.

The new Hong Kong is run by a small group of business people, only one of whom, Tung Chee-hwa, actually occupies an official position. Mr Tung, a squat figure with a distinctive crew cut, is a Shanghai-born shipping tycoon whose Orient Overseas shipping empire was tottering on the edge of collapse before being rescued by the Chinese government in the 1980s. His cronies are people such as Henry Fok, the man who brokered his company's

rescue deal. He is China's oldest and best friend in the business community. Equally important is Li Ka-shing, a one-time big league donor to the Conservative Party, but more importantly, the richest and most powerful businessman in Hong Kong.

Billionaires like Mr Fok and Mr Li have Mr Tung's close attention. He trusts them more than the civil servants who used to run the colony, or even the members of his Executive Council or cabinet who are supposed to be his closest advisors. Last week, when Mr Tung unveiled his emergency economic revival package, he did so without even consulting the cabinet members, who were simply summoned to a meeting to be told of its contents.

In running the government in this autocratic fashion, Mr Tung is turning the clock back to the old days

China's guiding principle in devising a new system for Hong Kong was to preserve the colonial form of rule

when the great imperial Governors, such as Sir Hercules Robinson, would huddle together with a group of chortle-chewing businessmen to decide the fate of the colony. Sir Hercules surrendered his governorship in 1865; Mr Tung assumed office last year.

Like the governors of a bygone era, Mr Tung sees little point in explaining his policies to the great unwashed, nor does he appreciate the idea that they may have something to contribute in formulating policy. In a recent impromptu address to a group of foreign correspondents he spoke of how people were always keen to change him and his ideas. Mr Tung was proud that they always failed. Those who have worked closely with him say he is impervious to those who wish to push him in directions he prefers not to travel.

Yet, in reality, the head of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region can hardly be described as free of pressure from above. The Chinese government is not famous for tolerating such *laissez-faire* arrangements and, given the high degree of interest shown in Hong Kong by the upper echelons of the Peking leadership, it is difficult to believe that they are simply stand-

ing back and giving Mr Tung a totally free hand.

So, how does he relate to the hordes in Peking? The simple answer is that no one knows outside the tiny circle of those involved in the relationship. The whole matter is shrouded in an extraordinary degree of secrecy.

When some British correspondents asked Mr Tung to whom he reports in Peking, he replied, "I report to the central government". Yes, but to whom in the central government? "A number of people," he said. Who are they? If, for example, he is reporting direct to the central leadership, through government rather than Communist Party channels, this suggests that he is in a very powerful position. Indeed, insiders believe that Mr Tung literally has a direct line into Jiang Zemin's private office. This means that in the highly secretive, suspicious and faction-ridden world of the Chinese leadership, Mr Tung has essentially placed all his cards in the hands of the Jiang faction. As long as Mr Jiang remains at the helm, this is not a problem. Should power slide in another direction, Mr Tung will be left dangerously exposed. Meanwhile, the ambiguity of Mr Tung's position serves both sides well. It gives Mr Tung the highest possible access to the leaders of Hong Kong's new sovereign state without there being anything laid down about how this relationship should operate. Moreover, he derives strength from an arrangement based on his personal ties, rather than institutional ones which could simply be picked up by someone else.

As for the leaders in Peking, they need not feel constrained by cumbersome arrangements for dealing with their man in Hong Kong. They have a good personal relationship with Mr Tung, who is thoroughly on their wavelength. Most importantly they can do everything behind closed doors because all executive power is concentrated in Mr Tung's hands, just as it was in the hands of the colonial governors who were loath to give a share of the action to their minions.

The new style of government is also very imperial. On Monday, Mr Tung will travel up to Peking to brief President Jiang on the arrangements for Wednesday's first anniversary celebrations. He will then accompany the president back to Hong Kong, in the style of the provincial rulers in imperial China who would scuttle to the capital to be by the Emperor's side as he made



Chinese Soldiers on the border before the changeover. They haven't been as busy as the British anticipated

AP

his way to their provinces.

The difference between the relationship Mr Tung has with Peking, and those of the Victorian colonial governors, is that Peking is just a phone call away from Hong Kong whereas London was a clipper's journey away, which left the governor and his bosses out of touch for long periods of time. However, the substantive relationship has been restored in as much as the only people who really matter are the boss in Hong Kong and his bosses in Peking, just like the days when all that mattered was the governor and his bosses in the Colonial Office.

Yet Hong Kong has become an infinitely more complicated and sophisticated society over the past century and a half. This makes it a place which does not really lend itself to such simplistic governing arrangements. Moreover, it certainly falls far short of the expectations of the people in Hong Kong who stubbornly vote overwhelmingly for pro-democracy candidates, and join monster rallies in support of China's democracy movement.

As a result of this, Mr Tung's popularity, as measured in numerous opinion polls, has steadily fallen since the handover. The more in-depth studies show that the public is not so much disillusioned by Mr Tung the man, but by his style of government.

That style has quickly percolated down to every level of the civil service, which has, by and large, retreated back into its shell after having been forced out by the last governor, Chris Patten. Mr Patten greatly annoyed most civil servants by harping on a theme of open and accountable government. Having been accustomed to a system of largely closed and non-accountable government, they disliked having to explain their every action and regarded the increasingly assertive legislature as little more than a time-wasting obstacle.

The new boss is hardly breathing down their necks to create a more open civil service, and so it has gratefully retreated to its old ways, occasionally emerging into the light of day when there is no option but to explain itself.

Had it been the case that the first year of post-colonial rule was one of continued prosperity, the government would have faced less criticism. However, by an extraordinary coincidence, the day after China resumed control in Hong Kong, the Thai government took the fateful decision to devalue its currency. This move triggered the Asian financial crisis which quickly enveloped Hong Kong after leaving a trail of destruction elsewhere in the region.

Hong Kong's economy is now in recession, unemployment has soared to levels not seen for almost

two decades, property prices have slumped by more than 40 per cent in just six months, and the stock market, that great bell-wether of Hong Kong's prosperity, is now trading at half the level it reached at the time of the handover. Such is the level of dissatisfaction with the way the government is handling the crisis that a public-opinion poll, taken this month, showed that almost half those questioned thought that Mr Tung was handling affairs worse than the last governor. Only 14 per cent thought he was doing better.

This is a truly remarkable state of affairs. In nearly all post-colonial situations, the first incoming government enjoys a considerable honeymoon of public approval in which it is compared favourably with its predecessors.

The new regime began life inauspiciously. On day one, the elected legislature was kicked out of office and replaced by an unelected provisional body, human-rights laws had their teeth drawn, and the old colonial public-order regulations were reintroduced.

Despite this, Hong Kong has not turned into a police state or anything of the kind. Representative government is as limited as it was under the colonial regime, but free speech flourishes and the government shows no sign of rounding up its critics. The new regime proudly pro-

claims that it is conducting business as usual. Speaking to Australian businessmen, Mr Tung said, "If people ask me: 'What has been the biggest change since I July' I would have to say: 'There has been no change. It is business as usual'."

The Chief Executive and his colleagues appear unable to point to achievements initiated by themselves; instead, they insist that their real achievement is to have left the system intact. This is truly astonishing. Not least because the new order set itself a higher standard. It was laid out by China's former premier, Li Peng, on the first day of Chinese rule. He said, "Hong Kong has now entered a new historical era. Its future will be even more splendid".

Things have not quite turned out that way. Hong Kong is in the doldrums. Not only that, but the clock has truly been turned back. It has reverted to the old days of imperial rule when Britain controlled its colony through an all-powerful governor who kept a careful eye on London's interests. Now Hong Kong is run by a proconsul who keeps a careful eye on Peking's interests. After a century and a half of British colonial rule, China has acquired a new colony.

'Hong Kong: China's New Colony' by Stephen Vines will be published by the Aurum Press in September at £18.95.

REVELATIONS

JOHN PEEL, RADIO PRESENTER, PORT OF LIVERPOOL, 1960

Being a failure taught me how to succeed

I WAS sitting in my cabin on board the SS *Eugene Lykes*, a freighter bound for Houston from Liverpool. My dad was there saying goodbye, and I suddenly realised that the option that I'd picked was irreversible and that I had to go on to the States and cope when I got there.

I had no long-term plans at all. Having had a very ordered childhood, there was a kind of inevitability to life for me. I was brought up by a nanny, so I had very little contact with my parents. I was packed off to prep school at the age of seven and took my common entrance at 12 or 13. I failed mine, but because my father, his brother and both grandfathers had been to Shrewsbury, I was nudged through.

But I went into what was, in effect, a remedial class. I was not stupid or wicked, just lousy. I'd like to have been a bad lad, the kind who'd been caught in bed with cooks, but I was more absent-minded, prone to peering out of the window when I should be concentrating.

But I was very lucky. I had an amazing house-master, RHJ Brooke, who subsequently went into the church. He was unique at that time, in that he realised that not all boys were going to become distinguished academics but it was

possible to try and nurture them. He put me in the study next to the House library because he quite liked the idea of my playing rock'n'roll records while the rest of them were in there listening to Ravel's "Bolero" or something like that. He liked the idea of having a faintly anarchic presence in the House. I had been threatened with expulsion on several occasions, and he'd gone to bat on my behalf, so I owe him a great deal.

But the expectation was that you'd go on to university, and I saw university as just being more of the same.

Perhaps realising that I couldn't be a success in the way that was expected of people in that school, I thought, well, the only way I can establish myself as an individual is by being a conspicuous failure.

I worked in the Cotton Exchange in Liverpool as an office boy, which I quite enjoyed (very physical work, undemanding, outrageously poorly paid), then went into the Army. Again, the option was there for me to attempt to achieve success - by becoming an officer, and most public schoolboys did become officers. So I like to think I was one of the first public schoolboys to fail to get a commission in HM's Forces - and this

still gave me a certain kind of distinction. Having done nine or ten years in boarding school, two years of military service was a doddle, and also in the Army you were never required to do any thinking for yourself. So, up until the time I left the Army, all decisions were made for me.

I was at home on leave towards the end of my National Service and my father was asking me what I planned to do when I was demobbed. I told him I was quite happy to hang around for a while and watch the world go by. He said: "I'll send you to America if you'll go," and in the way that you do when you're 18 or 19, I said "Yes, go ahead and send me, Dad, see if I care". And he did.

Crossing the Gulf [of Mexico] was amazing because you saw porpoises and flying fish; also, the sunsets in the middle of the Atlantic were so extraordinary that you felt almost as if you were passing from one life to another. There were only six passengers, and I just used to lie on the deck and stare up into the sky in a pre-hippie sort of way.

Arriving at Galveston and setting off up the channel to Houston, the heat was 20 degrees hotter than anything I'd ever experienced before.



It wasn't until the Beatles came along that I had the opportunity to get a proper radio job. I knew nothing about them but the Americans assumed I must be a relative

The stench of oil was unbelievable - you couldn't escape from it. And arriving at Houston I was, quite clearly, somewhere very, very different. It really was like arriving on another planet. I didn't have a network of anything to fall back on, I was entirely on my own for the first time in my life.

My father was a cotton broker in Liverpool and gave me the addresses of several people in Dallas and Memphis. He wanted me to make contact with them, which I duly did. The idea was that they would educate me. I was 20. I spent a night in Houston, then went on up to Dallas to meet these people. And they just put me to work as cheap labour: they didn't bother to try and educate me.

It wasn't until the Beatles came along that I had the opportunity to get a proper radio job. I knew nothing about the Beatles, but the Americans assumed, rather sweetly, that because I came from approximately the same part of the world I must be a blood relative - and so I was a Beatle expert on a station called KMEM, in Dallas.

And then I was offered a job by a radio station in Oklahoma City called KOMA. Radio then was very different, and you would often inherit a

name. My real name is Ravenscroft, and I was allowed to be Ravenscroft.

One decision I made at a fairly early stage was that I didn't want to get involved in showbiz. I'm still quite a shy bloke, and part of the taking control of my own life involved not doing things that I didn't want to do. There's always the feeling that there are certain events you must go to because you just need to put your face about, or you might meet somebody important, or whatever, and when you realise that you don't have to do that, it's really rather wonderful.

Sheila and I knew John and Yoko a little bit at one stage, and liked them enormously. And when Elton John first started out, we exchanged postcards and letters... and was used to know one of the Pink Floyd a bit. But there's something about the processes by which people become famous that I find essentially distasteful.

The trouble is that they're surrounded by people whose job it is to tell them that everything they do is wonderful and that they are beyond reproach, and I think that's quite damaging, particularly when they're very young and suggestible.

It was important when I realised that I didn't want to hang out with

celebrities. The record industry and showbiz in general are perfectly happy to cooperate with us in this, and we're not invited to loads of exotic receptions, but we were once. I suppose, in a way, it's the same thing as me being much happier being 2358538 Gunner Ravenscroft J, than Second Lieutenant Ravenscroft.

When I was in Brooke's form (at Shrewsbury) I went from being bottom to top of everything, so if the right person had come along earlier in my education I might have done better.

But something else which I learned a few years ago is that you are as much the sum of your failures as of your successes: if you like doing what you do and who you are, then you should celebrate your failures as well. I mean, if I'd gone to university, I might now be an accountant in Cheshire, which I don't think I would like.

John Peel has his own record programme on Radio One, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8.40-10.30pm. He can also be heard on Radio Four on Saturday mornings, 9-10am, in 'Home Truths'.

VERONICA GROOCOCC

Mud, mud inglorious mud

Tony Bennett,
drug-free
pop stars and an
on-site bank...
Whatever
happened to
the real
festival spirit?
By Ryan Gilbey

FOR MOST of the weekend, Embrace's song "Come Back to What You Know" played on a continuous loop in the hearts of those festival-goers brave enough to return to Glastonbury. You had only just finished picking crusts of last year's turf out of your belly-button when you arrived to find the site transformed into a scene from *Dulce et Decorum Est*. There was rain. There was sludge. There were capotes, wind-cheaters and rain-capes in every conceivable colour. There were plagues of locusts (all right, there weren't, but I did get a gnat bite). It was all so '97. Any discussion of the festival inevitably risks descending into weather report terminology - after all, how many people who attended have added the word "inclement" to their vocabulary since waking up on Saturday morning to find their tent, their camping stove and their loved ones drifting off downstream towards the Healing Field?

Amidst the trying weather conditions, there was always the music. The Prince of Darkness was not typically passionate form - no, not Tony Bennett, who had been at first bemused and then sweetly overjoyed at the ecstatic response he received, but Nick Cave, who just keeps going where Elvis left off. Glastonbury is especially significant for Robbie Williams, for it was here in 1995 that he contravened guidelines for boy-band members by taking drugs and monkeying around on stage with Oasis. Now he monkeys around by himself, though drugs are a no-no: "A year ago today, I got out of rehab," he chirps. His show was tremendous fun, though you can't help worrying about what he's going to draw on once he has sucked all the scandal out of the last three years of his life.

Glastonbury has sentimental meaning for Pulp too; 1995 was also the year when they stepped in for the Stone Roses, broadening the horizons of lost sheep who thought that baggy flares were as good as it got. The band performed a similar act of pre-conception surgery when they closed the festival on Sunday with



Tony Bennett (left), bemused older superstar, and Robbie Williams (right), substance-free younger superstar, epitomise the new face of the Somerset festival



an inspirational set that could only be likened to seeing Marc Bolan, Charles Hawtreys and Brecht & Weill form a supergroup together. I had found Pulp's latest album, *This Is Hardcore*, uncomfortably close to introspective self-parody, but on stage their playing was incendiary. Even their darkest songs, such as "The Fear" and "Live Bed Show", are entrancingly expansive; this is due to grand arrangements - and a grand frontman. Jarvis Cocker had been slouching around backstage in one of those tacky perspex sun visors, looking like a supply teacher holidaying at Butlin's, but the spotlight energised him. "Don't be frightened - it's only me," he purred, knowing full well that twitching, voguing, kung-fu fighting disco superstars like him don't come along every day.

But if Les Dennis of *Family Fortunes* asked the Brannigans from Tynes & Wear for things associated with Glastonbury, they would be less likely to suggest "music" than "mud", "hippy" or "anonymous sex

with a muddy hippy". This year, however, the festival has come over all high-tech, with such advances as on-site cash-points threatening to render those time-honoured evocations obsolete. Despite a significant demotion of the festival's spirit, there are some things that can still

be relied upon - like the team of hedonists peeling off and splashing around in the mud, either to communicate with their inner savage, or because it's a sure-fire way of getting their picture in next week's *NME*.

But exactly how relevant are the

old images of Glastonbury? Judging by this year's festival, they haven't gone away, though they don't tell the whole story. You couldn't miss the mud, especially once it had taken on the consistency of chewing-gum, and you found that you had accumulated entire clumps of marsh-land

on a single wellington boot; the one advantage of hauling this around all weekend was that it gave you calf muscles the size of marrows. And if the speed with which the free condom supply was depleted is anything to go by, nobody was swapping sex for making hanging baskets in the Craft Field, either.

It may be that the hippy is the one part of the Glastonbury equation that is realistically threatened with extinction. The sight of saucer-eyed loafers dancing to astral vibes used to be a common one at the festival. What's more, it served its own invaluable social function, providing those who had only temporarily exchanged their semi in Surbiton for a tent on a hillside with a sense of vicarious social rebellion. There didn't seem to be much of that about this year, vicarious or otherwise. In fact, the only counter-culture in evidence was at the specially erected NatWest branch. My favourite festival moment: "What's your mother's maiden name?" asked a cashier attempting to veri-

fy a customer's identity. "I dunno," the lad shrugged. "Can't you ask me something easier?"

The presence of football, in the shape of World Cup matches relayed on huge screens, undoubtedly went some way towards diminishing the essence of Glastonbury - it's hard to sustain the illusion that you are stranded happily on some ageless commune floating in outer space when "Three Lions" is the anthem of choice. Still, by the time the game between Paraguay and King's Lynn, or whoever it was that played on Saturday-afternoon, was screened, the supporters had dwindled to a few stragglers gazing up at the screen like members of a religious cult who have pledged their souls to Des Lynam. But I could be misrepresenting this vast, diverse, 108,000-strong crowd. I'm sure that more people would have been up for a spot of rebellion if only the footie hadn't been on, and their cell-phones hadn't kept going off. There's nothing like a call from your stock broker to remind you that you're not a Druid in real life.

KEEP OFF THE GRASS: GLASTONBURY AT 28

TIME WAS when entry into the Glastonbury festival cost £1 and earned you a pint of farm milk. The first festival, in 1970, featured the then unknown Marc Bolan performing on a stage anchored by a couple of trees. Somerset dairy farmer Michael Eavis set up the event in direct competition with the Isle of Wight and the Bath Blues festivals, both of which he felt to be unwholesomely commercial. The following year's festival, shrewdly timed to coincide with

the summer solstice, saw Eavis upping the music stakes with Hawkwind, Fairport Convention and David Bowie on the bill. Initiators were already popping up over the UK, from Pink Floyd's 15,000-strong jamboree at the Crystal Palace and the Reading festival to the prestigious Weeley Festival of Progressive Rock.

In the Park, Phoenix and Branson's ultra-efficient Virgin-fests gathered pace in the mid-Nineties. Meanwhile,

Glastonbury started to get out of control - 1995's event saw a shooting and destruction of the perimeter fence.

So far this year, demand for festivals has slumped. Universe was postponed, rescheduled and then postponed again. Pride is on the verge of being cancelled and Phoenix is not going ahead due to poor ticket sales. Even Glastonbury, the granddaddy of them all, didn't sell out.

FIONA STURGES

Ringling in the changes

OLD MACDONALD had a barn... And it was just such a barn, with a breathtaking view over the Evesham Valley, which has miraculously been transformed into Longborough Festival Opera.

Chickens still peck around the deep pink Palladian mock facade. The ceremonial staircase is breeze block rather than red carpet. Despite surrounding Cotswold stone, there is still the sense of arriving in the middle of nowhere.

But Longborough has a trump card. Its acoustic is superb. It captures singers, orchestra and solo instruments with a crystal clarity, whether you slide into the comfortable stalls (Covent Garden cast-offs) or slot into the stable-like, not-too-

grand upstairs tier, where sound and sightline are every bit as satisfying.

Privately-funded Longborough has just staged its first in-house production, whimsically launching its own Ring Cycle. The first offerings, two performances of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, were conducted by Alastair Davies, for several years Head of Music at the Royal Opera. With a team of able imported soloists, it notched up a remarkable success.

This was largely due to Nicholas Polwell's strongly-projected Alberich. So long as the Nibelung dwarf emerges as a genuine rival for power to Valhalla's residents and Erda's solemn warning (ringingly delivered, in slightly inept Miss Havisham garb, by Pauline Birchall)

OPERA
DAS RHEINGOLD
LONGBOROUGH FESTIVAL

makes its stark point, even staid *Rheingold* can achieve lift-off.

Clad in a costume that made him a dead ringer for Wozzeck, Polwell brought sufficient vocal punch and burly athleticism to supply a memorably daunting Alberich. While some of Laura Smith's cine-projections (pre-war Berlin?) lent Wotan and Loge's quest an Expressionistic time-warped feel, it was a scariest, metallic Sisyphus underworld, the newsreel print of the scattered subtitles (glooming like Nietzschean aphorisms) and the

smugly Frankfurt-like Bauhaus monstrosity cinematically depicting Valhalla that worked best of the back-projections. The curtain entries were directly effected: the gold (some limp miming aside), rather skilfully suggested.

The singing, overall, served *Rheingold* well. The knickerbockered Rheinmaidens (refugees from *Lulu*), variable individually warbled alluringly & *trois*. Still, no wonder one falls for Alberich. The deities could never quite pin down who they were. Jenny Miller's troubled Fricka hailed straight from Chekhov; Brian Bannatyne-Scott's effete Isenesque, grim-eyed Wotan let his dapper cane do his acting for him; Peter Lurie's wide-vi-

brated, shrugging Loge rather clouded Wagner's sneaky chromatics. Guy Harbottle's mild Donner seemed at moments pick of the bunch. Both giants registered well, Fasolt (Jacob Zethner-Müller) particularly impressive in the lower ranges. The thinned orchestra delivered exquisite string passages, fine woodwind and nice glints of brass, albeit insufficient to achieve full dynamic variety and depth. Yet only Polwell brought that sense of extended line that is so integral to Wagner. Following a clipped Prelude, Davies handled Wagner's unfolding to shortish bursts; intriguing to hear Ring recitative that sounds like Rameau.

RODERIC DUNNETT



Fasolt (Jacob Zethner-Müller) and Fafner (Mark Richardson)

From Russia, with style

RUSSIAN MUSICIANS in search of hard currency have added spice to London's concert life in recent years, challenging cosy Western ways with performances that elevate passion and commitment to cardinal virtues. Two fine chamber choirs (one devoted to ethnic sacred music, the other a formidable force in mainstream repertoire) proved the worth of such international musical trafficking, offering clear lessons to those who fancy the worldwide supremacy of the English choral tradition.

Moscow's Sirin Choir deals in ancient Orthodox chants and *pesen zemlyi*, popular songs of heaven and earth. Its female members wear colourful peasant costume, their male colleagues favouring clerical robes. They produce a raw, harsh-edged sound, shot

CLASSICAL
SIRIN CHOIR/
ST PETERSBURG
CHAMBER CHOIR
CITY OF LONDON FESTIVAL

through with folkish mordents and blessed with astonishing carrying power.

Dressing up in tinfoil crowns, wielding playground swords and chanting like Abaddonian fish auctioneers on speed may not be the essence of "cool", but the genuine feeling carried in the group's staged version of the *Massacre of the Innocents* stirred profound emotions, as did the mystical male-voice "Hymn of the Cherubim" and "Song to Sirin". The City of London Festival, upwardly mobile over the past three seasons, opened last week with a masterstroke of

programming. Although Rachmaninov's *Vespers* was not quite proof against the whispering echoes of St Paul's, the combination of solemn liturgical music, Wren's monumental architecture, eventide candle-light and a richly expressive performance offset any loss of clarity in the work's most detailed polyphonic moments. Collective nerves took a while to settle, as did the pitch; however, once the 40-strong St Petersburg Chamber Choir found its stride it could hardly be faulted. Hearing macho Russian second basses glide down to produce powerful, focused bottom B flats and make anything beneath the stave sound comfortable is chastening enough for the average British choral baritone.

But these prime examples of the species do the job with

style. The choir's upper line betrayed no trace of women attempting to mimic boys' voices; the young-looking St Petersburg sopranos produced vibrant, colourful tone. This was choral sound with a strong foundation, beautifully homogeneous centre and characterful top, the antithesis of the Oxbridge model and yet its equal in discipline. Nikolai Koroliev's conducting accounted for the acoustics without allowing the performance to sag, his gestures accomplished and shaped to get the best from an unaccompanied choir. If anyone had neglected the sacred significance of music and place, Koroliev surely jogged their memories with a captivating delivery of Rachmaninov's "Praise the Name of the Lord".

ANDREW STEWART

A high octane blast of Rocket 'n' roll

SWEATY, OVER-CROWDED, poorly ventilated - in many ways the Garage was the perfect venue to witness Rocket From The Crypt's high-octane onslaught. With the energy of Red Bull junkies and the commitment of stuntmen, this San Diego sextet was a pleasingly stark contrast to the limp-as-lettuce Britpop of Shed Seven and Embrace.

Our compère informed us that he'd been training RFTC in "toga-slaying rock 'n' roll" for the last five years, and that they were now in peak condition. "Are you ready?" he asked, after throwing a few kung fu shapes. We were.

All quiffs, sideburns and lat-tots, The Crypt took the stage in matching silk shirts, gui-

POP
ROCKET FROM THE
CRYPT
THE GARAGE
LONDON

tarist ND's look informed more by Elvex than Elvis. When they launched into "Do The Jerk", the intensity of their performance was immediately gripping. Here, one realised, was a band connecting with the genuine spirit of Jerry Lee and Little Richard, rather than peddling some bland, AOR-solled anachronism. If rock 'n' roll is dying, we want this lot staffing the E.R.

RFTC might be summed up as *Happy Days* meets The Clash meets Kiss - a 50's

throwback gang-band whose tongue-in-cheek approach includes choreographed guitar poses and - in larger venues - flash-pot explosions. What this doesn't make clear, however, is the band's tremendous work ethic. Frontman Speedo has said that, back home, they rehearse eight to ten hours a day, six days a week. It's a claim that the band's extraordinary tightness supports. At times they function like a single being, the different instruments like organs in the same body, roles and goals clearly defined.

Highlights included "Break It Up" and "Lipstick". The former kicked-in like the Beatles' "Revolution", then fell back on a big, dumb glam-rock riff. Before "Lipstick", Speedo's advice

for the audience's female contingent was "Back away from the rouge ladies, hold it on the maccara". He was less prepared to fraternise with a stage-diver who chose this song to make his entry, hauling him off-stage by the hair. Just a little bit of rough and tumble, you understand.

The only disappointment came when Holly Golightly of The Headcoats duetted with Speedo on "Eye On You". The collaboration works well on the band's eponymous new album, but live, Holly's vocal was lost in the wall of sound. Crypt-kickin' stuff, though, all the same. Catch them at Reading if you possibly can.

JAMES MCNAB

The art of decoration and the colour of pleasure

On one level, Patrick Heron's work can excite a visceral thrill. Tom Lubbock prefers to revel in its mystery

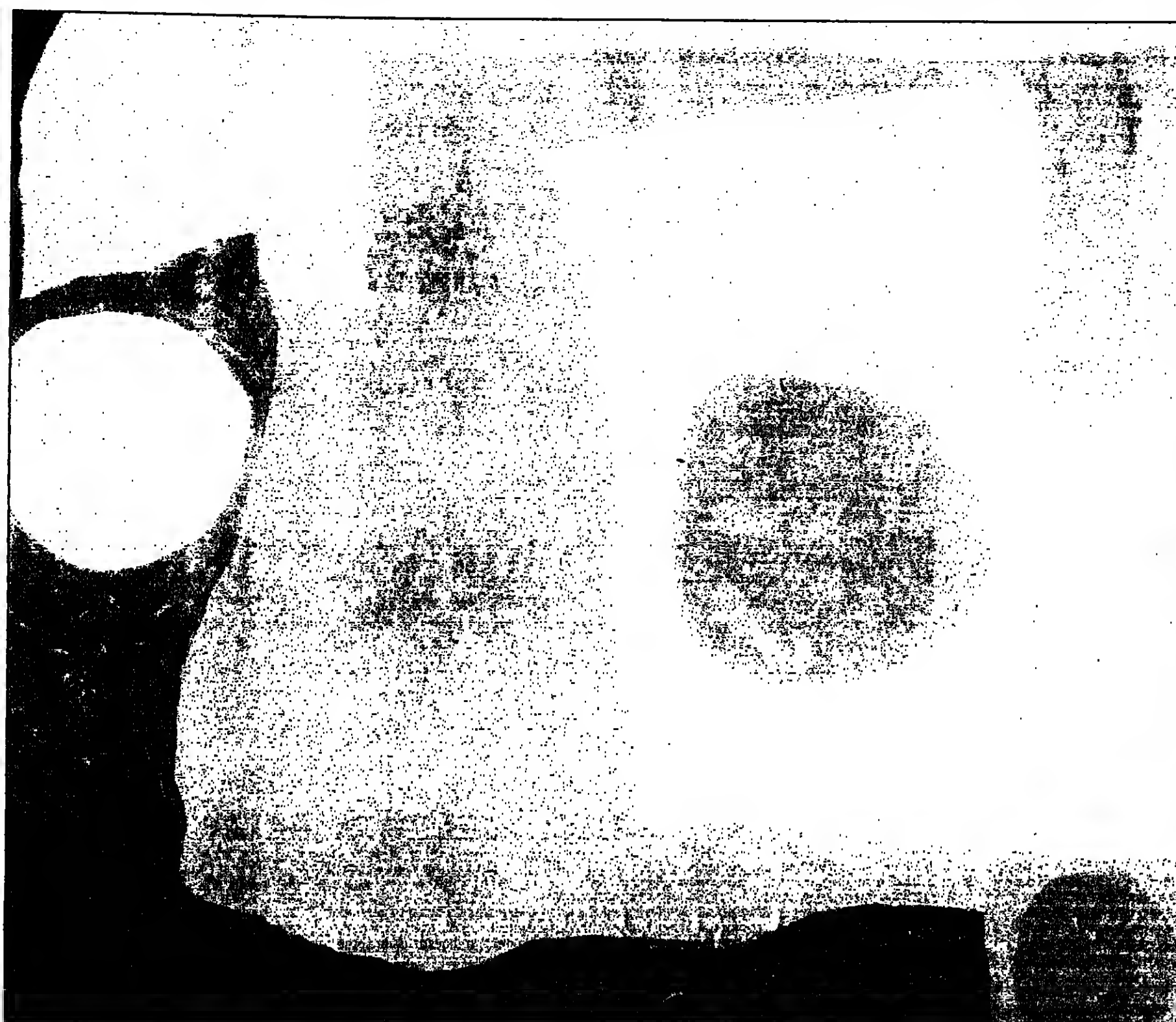


If you have £17.50 to spare, and a mind to visit the Patrick Heron retrospective at the Tate, try this experiment. Buy the exhibition catalogue beforehand. Take it round with you. Check off each of the 70 paintings against its reproduction. Compare. You'll soon see that, in terms of purchasing an effective souvenir of the show, your £17.50 has been wasted. It's not just that none of the colour reproduction is precisely right. It's that, with Heron's work, when you lose the precise colour, you lose just about everything. Still, the exercise needn't be wholly negative. Noting the discrepancies may also attune the eye more keenly to what is going on. And something certainly is.

Patrick Heron's world of colour – welcome to it! Here's 60 years of work. We begin with the artist's very precocious late teens (a superb Matisse pastiche, for one thing), and proceed through other influences (Bonnard, Braque), to a pretty sudden jump in the mid-Fifties into pure abstraction – fields of luminous dabs. And after that there's freely brushed stripes, vertical and horizontal moving then into floating squares and discs, and then into the "wobbly hard-edged" period of the Sixties and Seventies, and then into something much looser and more gestural, and then to the scribbly, doodly stuff with lots of white and slightly more representational (inkings of his celebrated garden in Cornwall) that he's still doing now, in his late seventies...

But having said that, having described the changing forms of Heron's art mainly in terms of the shapes and structures and strokes it uses, is there anything more to say? For these changes of form have had a constant focus: the deployment of colour. As Heron once said, "Colour is both the subject and the means, the form and the content, the image and the meaning, in my paintings." And if colour is famously reproduction-proof, it is also famously beyond words. Faced with this array, can any of us do more than go mum and aaah and hmpit and uh?

Heron himself has been, in his time, a man of words, a highly intelligent and sensitive writer on modern art and an eloquent propagandist for one sort of modern art in particular – an art whose business is pure visual sensation, whose great aim is pleasure, an art for whom "decorative" is not a term of abuse but a term of high praise, an art of colour. But written arguments



'Yellows and Reds with Violet Edge: April 1965' (above); the artist (top left)

aside, the paintings themselves are argumentative. And no one, I think, just looking at them, would call them "decorative" in the slightest sense of the word. They don't look like decor. They look like paintings that earnestly believe in the power of sheer, unadulterated colour.

And yet for the wrong sort of viewer, how powerless that power is. And I confess: I am that wrong sort of viewer. I stand before this art of pleasure and more often than don't get much pleasure from it. You can try to incite agreement, of course. You can say, for instance, that the wobbly hard-edged period seems to be pure Carnaby Street and, incidentally, how odd to find this metropolitan tang in the Cornishman's work – but however you put it, it's a pretty horrible lot of colours. Isn't it?

You can try to find explanations too. You can wonder if perhaps there's a too obvious equation going on between pleasure and strong bright colours. Or does Heron's whole idea of an art dependent on pure visual sensation involve a jumped conclusion? The colours of Matisse and Bonnard managed such intensity, perhaps, just because colour for its own sake wasn't all those artists were thinking about. They sound plausible lines of argument – but how feeble they would be to someone who unreflectingly adored this work. You go aah, I go aah, let's call the whole thing off.

But all isn't quite lost. For beyond immediate reactions, there's another level on which the paintings operate. This is the way in which colour-areas interact. It seems to

be independent of the pleasure principle. You can get very absorbed in it even if you don't especially like the look of the picture. It is fairly articulable too.

Heron's work is very involved with the push and pull of colours, how they seem to float in front of or withdraw behind one another, and can make a shape feel weighty or paper thin. He deploys their mutual magnetisms and infections: hues are transformed by their surroundings and neighbours, sometimes to the point of being quite disguised. Every area is kept active so that none, however large, relapses into being a mere background. This world isn't just a blast, it's busy.

When I say fairly articulable, that puts it mildly. In the hands of a vitoso Heron-critic, like Alan Gouk, a

field of coloured blobs and scribbles can become startlingly active and dramatic. Here he is, writing about a painting from the early Eighties. We join the story half way through. "Just when it begins to seem that the pink runs the risk of bleaching out too pale, avert one's eyes for an instant and up it comes again, perfectly blushing at the discrete lemon water's sharply whispered suggestion, and a louder, naughtily importunate from a fluttering flaglet of deep red, almost too stark an intrusion, yet not..."

Yes, yes – this must be the way to do it. This catches the life of these pictures perfectly. Yet isn't it also bordering on absurdity, like the higher wine-criticism, the way such precision is given to what must be utter subjectivity. Can we take quite seriously this so-human drama.

Are we really to see the pink as embarrassed?

A hard one. It seems to me that anyone who intently engages with a Heron picture is going to want to express themselves in this animated sort of way. The metaphors you choose will indeed be capricious and thus seem empty. But the sense that there is something definite that needs expressing is irresistible. I think that touches on the draw of Heron's work – not its pursuit of pleasure, but its commitment to a mystery, which everyone with colour-vision must feel. The world of colour seems to us enormously important just because it is inexpressible, just because it is always lost in reproduction.

Tate Gallery, London, to 6 Sept

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO BUYING AFFORDABLE MODERN ART

EVER TRIED wearing an art-gallery dress? They're impossible. Even for women. Emily Bates's dresses are made from human hair. Caroline Broadhead's are conceptual sculptures in wobbly wire frames with no means of entry, and Lesley Dill's are rigid armour with poems cut into them that can be read only from the inside.

So hooray for Isabel Dodd, whose sculptural, bell-shaped dresses, on show at the Crafts Council shop, occupy hitherto uninhabited territory between the sculptural and the wearable. She has taken art clothes into the street.

They're rubber, too. Dodd, 31, spent five years, after graduating in embroidered textiles at the RCA, trying to ravel fabrics into different textures using needle and thread. It was pitifully time-consuming – until she invented a high-temperature screen-printing process using molten rubber instead of ink.

Blobs of rubber make the fabric contract. Umpteen different patterns are possible, ranging from reptile-like scales – macho, fetishistic – to the rows of crinkly frills that used to adorn Victorian bodices. The rubber can be metallic or iridescent.

Her velvet, cotton or microfibre garments are breathable (not sweaty, that is), will not crease, and can be crumpled up and stuffed into a suitcase.

Dodd is in partnership with designer-maker Ray Harris, her tutor at the RCA. Many of the customers at his shop in Westbourne Park Road, London, are oversized women. They are not used to being offered beautiful things to wear, and appreciate the way the fabric tends to hang off the body.

Every garment is hand-made. The pieces are cut, then the rubber is printed on. "The magic," she says, "is that you never quite know how the fabric is going to turn out. It depends on how much pressure I put on, how long I leave the rubber to dry, and whether I blow-dry it."

She is getting orders from France, Germany, Italy, America and Japan. Her scarves are £50-£120 and her clothes £120 for a skirt or top, going up to £500 for a long jacket-cardigan – her best-seller.



Dodd's clothes are in New Faces '98, at the Crafts Council shop at the V&A, South Kensington, London W7 until 19 July (0171-589 5070). Ray Harris, 73 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (0171-221 8052)

A magnetic portrait of the artist

A treasury of taped interviews moves into its new home in the British Library next week. By Robin Dutt

BEFORE NEWSPAPERS, glossies, radio, television and the Net was... the voice. Oral history has been part of every culture, and the figure of the wise old storyteller a familiar one. Next week, celebrating 11 years of recording, our own treasury of oral history, the National Life Story Collection takes up residence in the new British Library.

The NLSC was originally established to create life story recordings with a broad spread of people in Britain, particularly individuals whose ways of life belonged to yesterday – thatchers, costermongers, blacksmiths and so on. Supported by a combination of public and private funding and voluntary effort, the NLSC has Lord (Asa) Briggs as its President and boasts a glittering list of concerned worthies.

Cathy Courtney, a writer and oral historian, was keen to add to the archive a collection of artists' life stories – people whose folk had been passed over due to their supposedly elevated or esoteric status. The special section which she originated, which is run in association with the Tate Gallery, includes dozens of formidable British talents, including Eileen Agar, Kenneth Armitage, Sandra Blow, Anthony Caro, Maggi Hambling, Correy Maddox and Victor Pasmore.

"I was particularly interested in artists," Courtney says, "because so often others report the words of artists in a way which is dense and complicated. Artists frequently use much simpler language, more natural. I wanted to see artists in the context of the society they live in."

Although the tapes – often made by Courtney herself and a dedicated band of critics, writers and curators

– are intended for posterity, there is no attempt to sculpt aural hagiographies. Often they are rambling, but all the more interesting for that.

"It is totally different to a journalistic style," says Courtney. "These tapes are meant to be full of digressions and anecdotes. Also, it is not all about being successful. We want to interview those who have been unsuccessful or who are little known."

Once completed – and the process can take several years – the tapes enter the vast vaults of the Life Story Collection and can be heard, free of charge, by anyone who applies for a Reader Pass from the British Library. Typically the listeners are academics, writers, researchers and the like, but the rainy-day escapee will surely not be barred either.

Holding charity status, the NLSC

can only add to its collection if the tapes are sponsored, to the tune of about £1,500 per artist – a positive bargain to corporations, for example, who believe in the importance of cultural public relations.

"As an interviewer on these tapes you are both interrogator and shrink," says Courtney. One might add also that over a period of time, the interviewee becomes a genuine friend of the interviewer since almost every question imaginable has been asked.

"We want to know everything," Courtney says. "Everyone has a story and you often find that those who say that their lives have been uneventful have the best stories to tell."

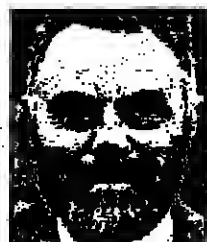
"Another thing about working on the Artist's Lives Collection is that I've noticed how beautifully they speak, with such eloquence – especially the older ones. The younger artists tend to speak less well in terms of exactitude but still their stories are very interesting. These are living treasures. They are people of their country and of their time."

The Artists' Lives Collection and National Life Story Collection are accessible at the British Library National Sound Archive, 96 Euston Road, London NW1. Reader Admissions Office 0171-412 1677

FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE BIRTH OF THE EUSTON ROAD GROUP

The artist Victor Pasmore (right) recalls William Coldstream painting the first Euston Road picture

BILL [COLDSTREAM] really did have a revolt against the whole modern movement... He used to come up to me and say, "I'm fed up with this film business". "Well," I said, "Why don't you start painting again?"... The problem was, where to start? I said, "You can't go back to that pure brushstroke." You can't go back to that... So I said, "Let's paint each other's portraits". We tossed up who would start. Bill won the toss, so he started.



After about 20 minutes, we got a bit tired and decided to have a... look at what he was doing. He produced a dreadful sort of third-rate Sargent. We both agreed there was no future in that!

So we agreed to try again next weekend. Bill turned up with a ruler and plumbline. Instead of starting as one usually does – do the outline of the head and shove in the eyes and mouth – he started with the eye and measured the distance between that and the next eye and down the nose, and marked all this. A completely photographic, objective way of doing it. We agreed it was a bit grim. But... at least there was something concrete here. That was the first Euston Road picture. Recording: Mel Gooding, chair of Artists' Lives' advisory committee

TOM SUTCLIFFE
'You'd only make that judgement if she was asleep. If she was awake, you wouldn't dare'

TELEVISION REVIEW PAGE 24

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HEALTH

Postnatal depression is a woman's problem, isn't it? Wrong. It also hits new fathers. By Heather Welford

It's all too much. I'm off to the pub

Postnatal depression (PND) affects between 10 and 20 per cent of new mothers – and is taken seriously. Books for mums, and mothers, fill the shelves; it's a bread-and-butter topic in women's magazines; there's a mass of ongoing research into causes and treatments.

What's less obvious, though, is that it also affects new fathers. The research is new, and since the earliest stuff in the Eighties there's been a trickle rather than a flood.

So far, statistics about incidence and timing are unreliable, with few replications of results or methods. However, the most robust UK study so far found 9 per cent of men depressed at six weeks post-partum, with 5.4 per cent depressed at six months – though one study went as high as 20 per cent at six months.

New babies bring stresses, pressures, expectations, the need for more cash, broken nights – all of them felt by men as well as women. "There are similarities in the postnatal depression suffered by men and women," says Dr Malcolm George, from the men's studies research group at Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London. "Many of them arise from the changed circumstances, and the problems both partners may have finding the emotional closeness to get through the difficulties. There's still an idea that good personal relationships are important only to women, and that's just rubbish. Postnatal depression is an exchange phenomenon. Each partner can make the other feel worse."

Classically, when men feel depressed, their strategy is to look for distraction. "I've had enough of this. I'm off to the pub" – leaving the mother feeling even more isolated. "Once you're depressed, your ability to solve problems is reduced, and things get worse," says Dr George. Psychiatrist Clive Ballard said there's been little progress in research since his team published their study of incidence in the mid Nineties. "It's partly practicalities. If a group of subjects is difficult to get hold of – such as fathers who don't know, or who don't admit, they're depressed – you tend to choose something easier to study."

Dr Ballard would like to see more active "seeking out" of fathers with depression. "In one or two areas now they routinely screen the partners of women with PND, but that reaches only some of the affected men. Why can't health visitors at least ask the mothers they're seeing, about their men?"



Paul Chapman, 31, pictured above with son Jacob, 4, and daughter Daisy, 6, didn't want help for his depression after Daisy was born

"I didn't want people to think, 'oh, poor sod, he can't cope with it all'."

Paul, a civil servant in Birmingham, is father to Daisy, and Jacob. After Daisy's birth, Paul's partner Jane suffered

severe postnatal depression, which took some two and half years to resolve with professional help. But Paul was suffering, too, from feelings of inadequacy.

Working long hours, and also following a part-time degree course, he got into the habit of drinking after work rather than coming straight home, sinking 10

CASE STUDY

bottles of strong lager two or three times a week. "I dreaded going home. The drink was a way of getting Dutch courage, stifling the worst of what I felt." Even when he realised he'd have to seek some sort of support, he couldn't see a way of getting it. "Despite all the professional help Jane was getting, I felt I was

expected to stay in the background. I was also getting the odd snide comment along the lines of 'get your act together'. The only thing that kept me from walking out was the kids – I just couldn't leave them."

In time, Paul saw a stress counsellor at work about his alcohol problem, and as the

pressure eased, he shared confidences with a (male) friend.

Looking back, Paul feels fathers are "pushed out of parenting. When problems arise, we're just expected to get on with it – but the truth is, we don't always manage to."

Paul Chapman is willing to offer support for new fathers. Write to him c/o NCT, Alexandra House, Oldham Terrace, London W3 6NH

the lives of our children." Duncan Fisher admits to intense irritation at cartoons about silly old Daddy keeling over at the idea of changing a nappy, and "joke" pieces about disastrous afternoons looking after baby. "Who are these fathers? All the ones I know change nappies without fainting, and manage childcare perfectly well."

They don't feel resentful of their children "stealing" their partners, either – he rails at the idea that there are hordes of men who can't cope with their partner breast-feeding, for example, and feel jealous at the baby's use of the breasts.

"Is this really true? How many men feel like that? I thought it was a lovely sight."

However, Fisher, 36, who is from Crickhowell, says that professionally run groups are unlikely to work as well for men as for women. He points out that men who are depressed or miserable, or who seek reassurance in their new role, are probably unwilling to join groups. "Privacy's critically important. Maybe they'd join a fathers' group later, but not at first. But I'd like to see couples' antenatal classes extended, to six months after the birth."

He proposes imaginative use of the Internet, where men could seek mutual support or even professional advice, at any time of day or night. "There could be leaflets given to all new fathers, including information on depression, and an acknowledgment of the pressures they might be under." He would like to see more men brave enough to visit toddler groups: "I go along to a local one, mainly because Miriam adores it, but I feel uncomfortable – about as comfortable as a woman in a rugby club bar."

Ongoing studies show that the children of postnatally depressed mothers are affected behaviourally and developmentally; Malcolm George is certain that research would show similar effects on children of a father's depression. "We already know depression of any kind increases marital breakdown; it's important to get the message across it's not just mothers who get PND."

Duncan Fisher wants parents, and professionals, to accept that mothers and fathers are in it together, and that mothers and their babies, can only benefit from fathers' active involvement and support. "When you really meet the needs of mothers, hey presto, you've met the needs of fathers as well."

Heather Welford is the author of 'Postnatal Depression' (Thorsons, £5.99).

Vitamin lobby – 1 Scientific experts – 0

THE VITAMIN lobby is in celebratory mood. Last week the Commons Agriculture Select Committee delivered a sharp rebuke to the scientists who, ten months ago, threatened the multi-million pound business with warnings of nasty side effects for those who took large doses of one immensely popular vitamin, B6.

More than one million people, mainly women, are said to use B6 – some swallowing a gobstopper size daily dose. It is taken for problems as diverse as premenstrual tension, acne and sickle cell anaemia but scientists on the health department's Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food warned last August that large doses taken over a long period could cause nerve damage.

The vitamin industry reacted with commendable speed, establishing a lobbying group and mobilising health-conscious customers everywhere to write protest letters to their MPs. More than 110,000 letters were received and the Agriculture Committee felt it expedient to set up an inquiry.

Its report makes uncomfortable reading for the COT scientists who are accused of being "curt to the point of rudeness" and producing a report that is "scientifically unjustifiable," and

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

"palpably wrong". Now I hold no brief for ill-mannered scientists. But it is the content of expert advice that I value. And if I am forced to choose between a bunch of MPs with a couple of science O-levels between them and a committee of experts with years of research experience, I don't have much difficulty deciding whose advice I prefer.

Moreover, what for me is the key conclusion in the Agriculture Committee's report seems to have been largely overlooked – that the evidence that vitamin B6 confers benefit on those who take it is "inconclusive." The committee is absolutely straight about this. "Many consumers may experience a placebo effect rather than any actual health benefit," it says.

This would not be surprising. Vitamin B6 is found in a wide variety of

foods including cereals, potatoes, meat, milk and beer and is essential for breaking down protein for use by the body. However, the recommended daily requirement is a modest 1.6mg for adult women and 1.4mg for adult men. Thus even the 10mg dose that will still be available on free sale under the government's proposed restrictions is over five times the daily amount most people need and should be enough to deal with a sackload of protein.

The most surprising aspect of the row is the modesty of the Government proposal that has provoked it. We are not talking of a ban on vitamin B6 here, merely a restriction of its free sale to 10 mg tablets over the counter and to 49 mg from pharmacies.

The COT scientists have kept their own counsel since the Agriculture Committee reported but are said to be livid about the criticisms. They say there was not one study which swayed them, but a whole series which all pointed in the same direction – to evidence of harmful effects when the vitamin is taken in excess of 50 mg daily for months or years. The row has left consumers perplexed and Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, with a conundrum. Whatever policy he now announces is certain to be attacked.

Corn Flakes could save your life

Pregnant or not, we may all benefit by taking this B vitamin. By Peter Baker

YOU HAVE no doubt heard the joke about the Corn Flakes packet being better for you than its contents. Well, Corn Flakes may still taste like sweetened cardboard, but new research suggests that the nation's favourite breakfast cereal could have a key role to play in preventing its most common cause of death – heart disease.

This is definitely not another wacky health story in the "shark cartilage cures cancer" tradition. This time the science is serious and, if the direction of current research is confirmed, the implications for the Government's food policy could be huge. The key to it all is a B vitamin called folic acid, until now best known for its ability to prevent neural tube defects such as spina bifida when taken as a supplement by women before and during pregnancy.

Kellogg's now sprays liquid, synthetic folic acid on to its Corn Flakes, Rice Krispies and Special K cereals. The exciting aspect of this otherwise less than appetising stage in the manufacturing process is that folic acid can reduce the blood level of a substance called homocysteine. This matters because high homocysteine counts are known to be closely associated with an increased risk of heart disease.

Homocysteine is an amino acid produced naturally in the body when protein is metabolised. The idea that it could be linked to heart disease first emerged when Dr Kilmer McCully, a pathologist at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Rhode Island, investigated the



Folic acid in Corn Flakes could help prevent spina bifida in unborn children

cause of arterial disease and strokes in children with a rare condition known as homocystinuria. Because of a genetic defect, such children are unable to dispose of homocysteine normally and therefore have high levels in their blood.

McCully suggested that a similar process might also be occurring in the general population of adults, not because of any genetic error but because inadequate intakes of folic acid were allowing homocysteine levels to rise too high, become toxic and start damaging artery walls.

Heart disease is in fact much more closely associated with high homocysteine levels than with cholesterol. "Levels of blood homocysteine greater than 14 micromoles per litre are associated with increased risk of arteriosclerosis and the

higher the homocysteine level, the higher the risk," suggests Dr McCully. His analysis has now been confirmed by many studies, including the European Concerted Action Project, which found that those people with the highest homocysteine levels were as likely to develop vascular disease as someone smoking 20 cigarettes a day.

While a relationship between homocysteine and heart disease is now widely accepted, there are still doubts about whether elevated homocysteine levels are the direct cause of the problem. It could be that the amino acid is just a marker for some other, still unknown factor that is the real cause of the greater risk.

"Homocysteine is an enigma in relation to cardiovascular disease and nobody yet knows for

sure the mechanism linking the two," argues Dr Jacob Selhub, director of the vitamin laboratory at Tufts University, Boston. There have also, as yet, been no long-term, large-scale clinical trials to show that increasing people's intake of folic acid will reduce their risk of developing heart disease.

But there is little doubt that consuming more folic acid reduces homocysteine levels. A recent study at Leeds University suggests that merely eating a bowl of breakfast cereal fortified with 200mg of folic acid every day for 24 weeks lowers the level by 10 per cent.

Dr McCully considers a total daily folic acid intake of 350-400mg to be ideal. (400mg is the level recommended for women who are trying to conceive, and those in up to 12 weeks of pregnancy). But it is

difficult to obtain this amount from food, partly because "natural" folic acid is easily lost during both cooking and digestion. Synthetic folic acid is, surprisingly, a far better source, since almost all of it is absorbed by the body. So the best sources of folic acid are vitamin supplements and vitamin-enriched foods, such as Corn Flakes.

Since 1 January 1998, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has required enriched grain products, including breakfast cereals, to be fortified with folic acid at a level that should give the average woman an extra 100mg a day. The FDA's decision was undoubtedly also influenced by the emerging evidence on heart disease. But there are no similar plans for the UK, and those food manufacturers now adding folic acid are doing so voluntarily.

Each year, more than 145,000 people in the UK die of heart disease and the illness costs the health service almost £4bn. Even though not even the most ardent advocate of folic acid claims it constitutes a "magic bullet" for heart disease, if the evidence for its effectiveness hardens, pressure on the Government to follow the FDA's lead will undoubtedly grow. The calls for mandatory food fortification will intensify still further if tentative new evidence linking homocysteine with Alzheimer's disease is also strengthened by further research. In time, a bowl of cereal could well help us snap, crackle and pop for many years to come.



Sheila Asprey: 'It wasn't vanity that prompted me, I was in pain. What did I have to lose?'

Neville Elder

My face cleared and my life went dark

Roaccutane is a drug commonly used to treat severe acne. The makers warn it may cause mood changes. Very true, says Sheila Asprey. It drove her to attempt suicide

TWO YEARS ago, 18-year-old David Tobby was prescribed Roaccutane to clear acne on his face. Months later, he suffered from depression and, finally, committed suicide. Earlier this year, a warning was issued in the United States about the drug's possible links to 12 suicides there.

The Medicines Control Agency are considering strengthening the current warning on the box, which says that the tablets may cause side-effects including mood changes.

A spokesman for Roche Products Ltd, which manufactures the drug, says: "More than eight million patients world-wide have been treated with Roaccutane, since it became available in 1982. During this period there have been occasional reports of depression and very rarely suicide... acne itself can be a risk factor for depression and it is well known that teenagers and young adults with acne are at increased risk of depression and suicide."

Yet, Sheila Asprey, prescribed Roaccutane a few months ago, feels sure that the drug - not the acne - was responsible for her suicide attempt. This is her account of her experience with the drug.

ALWAYS THE optimist, that's me. So when at the age of 40 I was recom-

mended to try Roaccutane, a very strong drug used in severe cases of acne, I grabbed at the opportunity with both hands. It wasn't vanity which prompted me, though it would have been nice to have clear, spot-free skin. I was in pain with cystic lumps which would erupt at any time. At last, an opportunity to get rid of them once and for all. What did I have to lose?

Several side effects were indicated. Jaundice, liver disease, anaemia, seizures, systemic infections, were just a few of the ill-explained contra-indications. Even so, I had been assured that the most I was likely to experience was dry skin, especially on the lips, dry eyes, possibly some hair loss and occasional mood swings.

My two young daughters of 11 and five were excited and supportive at the prospect of Mum becoming spot- and pain-free. I started the three-and-a-half month course in March. After two or three weeks, my lips began to feel sore. They eventually peeled, and my face took on a healthy-looking ruddy glow that needed plenty of daily moisturising.

Four weeks presented a slightly different story. I had developed mood changes which had been denoted as 'other less common un-

wanted effects'. I became picky, criticising everyone and everything. Rob, my partner of nine years, sat me down to discuss this problem. Unaware that I had been upsetting everyone so much, I became emotional and apologetic.

I don't remember opening the bottle of wine or swallowing a bottle of pills. I don't remember if it was night or day

We agreed the tablets were responsible.

By five weeks, I was almost oblivious to how aggressive and argumentative I had become. Even my children commented on how unbearable I was.

By the sixth and seventh week, I was so irrational my partner did everything to avoid confrontations. I became depressed and would sit alone, unwilling to discuss everyday

minor problems, which to me had become insurmountable. I refused to talk or listen to reason. I would accuse others, shout, cry and throw temper tantrums.

Rob was at his wits' end, hoping that my eight-week check-up would produce some solution. It was not to be, as I never made it to that appointment.

I had everything to live for. Two beautiful daughters, a loving caring man, with whom I had just bought our London flat. Even more important, I had received support from everyone who knows me in my struggle to write my first novel.

I don't remember opening the bottle of wine, or swallowing a bottle of pills. I don't remember talking to neighbours shortly beforehand. In fact I don't remember where I was, or if it was day or night. After I had driven Rob mad with my bullying and pressurising behaviour, he left to spend the night with a mutual friend.

It was my five-year-old who found me the next morning. She became hysterical when she could not wake me. Rob arrived shortly after the ambulance to find me convulsing.

At the hospital, nobody expected me to live. For three days and nights, family and nursing staff

were at my bedside. My tongue protruded from my mouth, where I had bitten it during the fits. My neck was wider than my head due to infection and I can only describe my condition as deranged. For three nightmarish days I was comatose and hallucinating.

When I recovered, my memory was severely impaired. I forget people's names and I cannot concentrate for long stretches, so the book I so wanted to write is on hold. My children are so disturbed by the whole experience, they have become insecure.

Rob constantly reassures me, telling me I survived death, so I can surely survive this. But I am so very angry. Our lives have been turned inside out, and it should never have happened. I have lost my zest for life, my sparkle.

I know positively that my treatment was responsible for my depression. I came off the drugs six weeks ago and I can feel myself getting better every day. I'm seriously considering pursuing a medical action - I've been in touch with other people who've been through similar experiences with the drug.

I've resigned myself to acne now - I'd rather live with it than risk any other treatment.

Is there any truth on TV?

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES

In order to gain access to subjects that pull in viewers, producers are surrendering editorial control

selfish gene theory can be extended to include all aspects of human behaviour, from gender differences through economic inequalities up to and including death itself. But as Karl Popper would have pointed out, when a theory is supposed to be able to explain everything and is not falsifiable, it ceases to be a scientific theory - it becomes an ideology.

I would have thought that even the most psychopathic of producers would think twice about grossly sentimentalising the death of a contributor and using it as a platform for speculation dressed up as science. The risk of being accused of tastelessness would seem to be huge.

But not only am I wrong, the producers were also right in terms of the public reaction. Normally hyper-critical reviewers commended the programme and I have seen no letters of complaint to newspapers. It would seem that the public also regards this bilge as acceptable entertainment.

But when you stop to think about it, this was only one of a number of examples of alarmingly corrupted factual programmes to have polluted our screens in the past fortnight. The week before, the journalist, John Diamond, might be said to have turned the tragedy of cancer into a career opportunity with a BBC1 *Inside Story* documentary to go with his book and newspaper columns on the subject.

No one pointed out that the subject of this supposedly objective document had a considerable influence over its content: he was the Associate Producer. Taken together with the lame Louise Woodward Panorama interview, the facile pretence of a serious discussion with Earl Spencer and the Mohammed Al Fayed-based "Diana conspiracy" documentary, these programmes suggest a worrying decline in our factual television.

In order to gain access to subjects that pull in viewers, the producers in effect surrendered editorial control.

Most worrying of all, hardly anybody seems to have noticed. It suggests that critics and public alike have simply stopped regarding these kinds of programmes as serious.

Beware cut-price contact lenses

They may soon be sold by mail order. Convenient, but could they damage your eyes? By Glenda Cooper

"CONTACT LENSES are safe in sensible hands," says Christopher Kerr, the senior optical director of the Contact Lens Service. "But honestly, I don't know how sensible we all are."

Mr Kerr is one of the optometrists who are opposed to selling contact lenses by mail order. The General Optical Council (GOC) recently successfully prosecuted the company Vision Direct for selling them in this way. The company was ordered to pay £50,000.

The case has provoked controversy, with optometrists arguing that selling contact lenses by post could potentially damage people's eyes, and others arguing that opticians are wanting to protect their own mark-up rather than provide cheaper lenses. In several countries, such as the US and Denmark, mail order lenses have been operating for years - with, say supporters, no increase in eye problems.

Steffan Rygaard, of Vision Direct, has said that he intends to keep on selling cut-price lenses, though he may have to sell through an American website, outside the jurisdiction of the GOC.

"The consumer demand is unbelievable," he says. "Every 15 minutes someone is ringing me up with



Will mail-order lenses encourage lax health standards?

an order. I've turned down £7,000 worth... since the court case." Rygaard supplied lenses to customers who already had prescriptions. "I would send them reminders twice a year to say 'go for an eye test and send us a copy of your prescription and then we can carry on'."

But consultant ophthalmologists fear that mail order lenses will lead to laxity in the supervision of con-

tact lens wearers, resulting in more infections which, though rare, can have devastating consequences. About five in every 10,000 wearers of soft lenses, the most popular kind, require treatment each year. This rises to 20 per 10,000 for extended-wear lenses.

"There is a very small number of complications," said Lyndon Jones, an optometrist who has published

research papers on disposable lenses. "The problem is, they are generally the sort of complications you are given no warning over until it is too late. If you have regular check-ups, complications can be picked up. The major problems include... the blood vessels travelling from the white of the eye to the cornea being starved of oxygen. They end up growing into the cornea, interfering with vision."

Infection and oxygen deprivation are the principal problems for contact lens wearers. The soft lenses cover most of the cornea (the transparent surface of the eye) preventing air getting to it. An ill-fitting lens can aggravate the problem of oxygen deprivation.

"In the most extreme cases - which are rare - you could end up with acanthamoeba keratitis, which causes scarring of the cornea and can result in the need for a corneal graft," says Mr Kerr.

But Mr Rygaard questions whether going to an optician provides any more protection than buying his lenses by mail order. "If you are buying lenses for the first time you are told how to use them and you have your eyes tested, but for repeat purchases that's not the case. You

pick them up from the receptionist and walk out of the shop. Then if you have any problems you go back... We don't do anything different from that. The other thing is, the optician gives you a box of lenses. You don't test each and every one of them before you go out of the shop."

Mr Kerr, on the other hand, says: "I sincerely believe that potential problems are greatly increased if there is not clinical supervision."

"We are all a bit careless," he adds. "With medical compliance only 50 per cent of us take a full course of tablets. So with lenses, people may not change them at the correct intervals, or wear them much longer than they should, or forget how to clean them properly - and thus end up with a problem which may be asymptomatic, but ends up causing ocular damage."

Mr Jones agrees, saying that the number of people suffering complications would increase if lenses were sold by post.

Mr Rygaard, on the other hand, believes that eventually the GOC will have to acknowledge that mail order lenses cannot be outlawed.

"You can't stop it happening," he says. "The GOC may have beaten me in court, but they haven't won."

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They're funny. But are they safe?

Novelty condoms are big business. But user beware: not every novelty condom is a safe condom. By Peter Baker

They may play a tune, glow in the dark or look like animals, but are they safe? Couples who have got the message about unprotected sex could still be at increased risk of unwanted pregnancy or of acquiring a sexually transmitted disease, following the introduction of new European Union testing procedures.

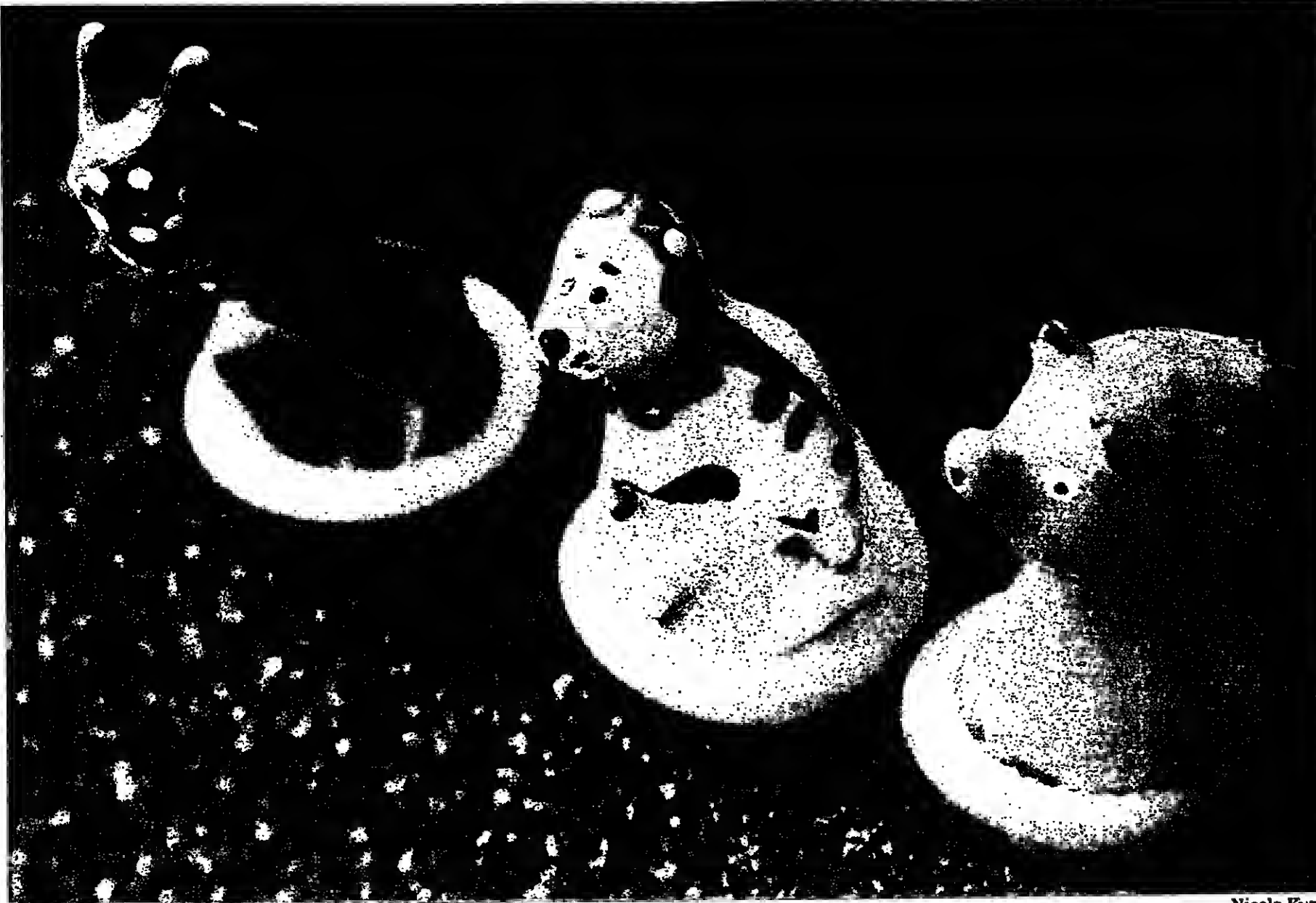
An EU directive stipulates that, from 14 June, all condoms manufactured for sale in Europe must carry a CE mark. The intention is to improve the safety and quality of products but, for many UK condom users, the outcome could be just the opposite.

While introducing the mandatory CE mark may well improve condom standards in some countries, it is more likely to cause a worrying degree of confusion in the UK. The danger is that many consumers will believe that condoms carrying the CE mark alone provide the same guarantee of quality as those also stamped with the Kitemark, the British Standards Institute symbol that currently appears on the UK's leading condom brands.

"While many people may assume it is the CE mark that represents the highest standard, the Kitemark is in fact streets ahead," says Philip Kestelman, the Family Planning Association's representative on the BSI's condom committee. For once, this seems to be a case where British really is best.

To be granted a CE mark, manufacturers simply have to prove that their products are safe (in the limited sense that they will not hurt users by disintegrating, or by being toxic). There are no compulsory tests for condoms' effectiveness as contraceptives, or as barriers to sexually transmitted diseases. Once approved, moreover, CE-marked condoms do not have to be re-assessed for a further five years.

A Kitemarked product, however, must meet a much tougher, more comprehensive and longer-standing European-wide standard (known as BS EN 600). The manufacturer is also subject to quarterly BSI inspections at the factory, as well as



Novelty condoms: 'with one million sold in Britain each year, some people are likely to put themselves at risk'

Nicola Kurtz

weekly and random product tests to ensure that condoms always meet BS EN 600. It is not surprising, therefore, to hear Kestelman warning that "CE marking doesn't in practice mean anything at all."

This is denied by the Department of Health: "There is no suggestion

that the Kitemark is better than the CE mark," a spokeswoman said. But this is an area where the Government's ability to provide independent and objective public health advice is constrained by legal rules prohibiting restraint of trade within Europe.

In a situation that the Consumers' Association describes as "ridiculous", government agencies, including the Health Education Authority, cannot now advise the public that products with a UK Kitemark are preferable (even when they clearly are); all they are

allowed to say is "use a condom with either a Kitemark or a CE mark". Since many non-government organisations, including the Family Planning Association, and influential publications such as the *National Aids Manual*, will continue to advise condom consumers to

buy products carrying a Kitemark, there is a clear risk of mixed messages jeopardising years of painstaking health education work designed to encourage the use of only the most reliable condoms.

Most of the condoms sold in the UK's high streets are made by the

leading brands Durex, Mates and Jiff, and will continue to carry a Kitemark, as well as a CE mark. But Keith Alcorn, editor of the *National Aids Manual*, warns that "there are a lot of brands coming out to the market from outside the UK, and it's not clear how good they are".

Many of these, which are often available from vending machines in pubs or from specialist sex shops, may well carry only the CE mark. British visitors to Europe who buy condoms while abroad may also not understand the potential problems with CE-marked condoms.

Condom consumers could be further confused by the fact that condoms manufactured before 14 June can quite legally be sold without a CE mark until the year 2001.

The manufacturers of novelty condoms are particularly likely to take advantage of this loophole. Just how many people use these "toys" in the belief that they offer some real protection is not known, but with 1 million sold in Britain each year it is likely that at least some will be putting themselves at risk.

Making sense of the official marks on condoms is not the only problem facing users. Although packets provide information about flavourings or lubrication, they are generally much less forthcoming about size and shape. (The manufacturers fear that men will simply shun products labelled anything other than "huge" or "massive".) Yet condom design can be highly significant, according to new research from the Institute of Population Studies at Exeter University.

When men were asked to try different shaped condoms with their regular partners, preferences emerged.

"All the condoms proved to be some of the respondents' favourite, and we found some men who had a very negative reaction to one shape but were much happier with another," says Ruth Garside, a research fellow at the institute. "This suggests that more emphasis should be put on the range of condoms that are available, and couples should be encouraged to try a selection to find out what's best for them."

Help, I'd do anything for a good night's sleep

Insomnia can be beaten with sleeping pills. But at what price to users, their partners, friends and colleagues? By Jerome Burne

DRINKING AND driving is, we all know, dangerous and irresponsible. Once over the legal limit, you are four times more likely to be involved in an accident. So what would you say about people who take a drug that makes you 16 times more likely to have an accident? We are talking here about the 15 million prescriptions for sleeping pills dispensed by GPs every year.

"Sleeping pills are dangerous drugs," says Ian Hindmarch, professor of Human Psychopharmacology at Sussex University. "They all have a bad effect on your performance the next day. None of them are free of side-effects." But there is an alternative. Valerian, a herbal preparation used to induce sleep for centuries, is just as efficient as the pharmaceuticals, without the side effects.

An estimated 20 per cent of the population suffers from sleep difficulties from time to time. Other figures show that four out of 10 individuals don't get a regular night's sleep. "The effect of sleep

deprivation can be very serious," says Hindmarch. "It's linked with depression, reduced quality of life and poor concentration."

As a leading sleep expert Hindmarch is indignant about the bad deal we are getting from sleeping pills at the moment. "Waking and sleeping are intertwined," he says. "If a pill puts you to sleep, you have to ask what effect it has in the day." Studies at the Dayton Veteran Administration Hospital in the USA found that reducing sleep for just an hour and a half for one night lowers daytime alertness by up to 33 per cent and cuts reaction times.

So what's needed is something that gives you a good night's sleep without putting you, and anyone you meet, at risk the next day. The answer, Hindmarch believes, is the traditional remedy valerian. "At least half a dozen well-conducted trials now show it's much more effective than a placebo, and you don't wake up with any kind of a hangover." Journalist Shelley Bovey swears by the commercial extract Valerina

Night Time. "I've got ME and one of the symptoms is that you get very disturbed sleep. I can fall asleep OK but then I wake after about three hours and can't get back to sleep. I tried sleeping tablets but I hated the feeling of being knocked out and in the morning I felt so groggy. Then my daughter told me about Valerina. It was brilliant. I sleep right through the night and wake up feeling so chirpy."

What's happening with valerian could prove to be a repeat of the St John's Wort saga. This is the herb, long used traditionally to treat mild depression, which, in recent double-blind clinical trials, has equalled the likes of Prozac, with far milder side-effects. In the last year, an extract of it has proved a best-seller. St John's Wort could also turn out to be the answer to a problem that keeps GPs awake at night.

There is a type of patient that makes a GP's heart sink – the one who says they are tired all the time. Doctors call them TATTs. The typical TATT patient doesn't have a



One in five people have occasional problems sleeping

problem sleeping, but they never feel they get enough. They talk about feeling as if they are wading through treacle during the day. They are worried they have a serious disease but there is nothing wrong with them. Jane Crook, a 32-year-old child-minder was a typical TATT patient.

"Last January I felt very unfit and low. I wasn't depressed, just dreadfully tired. I'd sleep all right but when I woke up I wasn't revitalised. I still felt wacked out. In the evening I'd sit down with one of the children and just want to collapse."

In an attempt to find a solution to

the TATTs problem – and they can make up about 10 per cent of a GP's caseload – a small pilot study used St John's Wort. Twenty TATT patients were given an extract called Kura over a six-week period and they all reported a significant improvement.

Jane doesn't need any more evidence. "After three days on St John's Wort I felt completely different. The quality of my sleep had improved and I found it much easier to get up. It was as though someone was behind me, driving me on."

Although there haven't been that many trials involving valerian, there are virtually none on any other traditional herbal remedies for sleep. Other Western remedies include: camomile, catnip, lavender, lime flowers, passion flower, hops and skullcap taken as a tea or capsule. Sleeping on a lavender pillow may also be suggested.

Foods may also help. One approach is to encourage eating those rich in tryptophan, the chemical our brains use to make the feel-good neuro-transmitter serotonin. These

include: turkey, bananas, figs, dates, milk and tuna. At the same time, avoid foods high in tyramine, used to make the stimulant noradrenalin, such as: bacon, cheese, chocolate, eggplant, potatoes and wine.

Certain vitamins and minerals may also be useful in helping with sleep. The B vitamins, especially B5, are good for promoting a restful state, while calcium is calming but should be balanced by magnesium.

Valerina Night Time is available in chemists and health food shops. A pack of 80 tablets costs £4.99. Kura is an extract of St John's Wort. A pack of 30 costs £14.95.

For a food and herbal approach to the problems of insomnia, try the Women's Nutritional Advisory Service. PO Box 268, Leazes, East Sussex, BN7 2QN. Tel: 01273 487366

Insomnia is always a symptom of some underlying condition. It may be due to stress or may be a sign of a deeper disturbance. If it persists for more than a week you should always see your doctor

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RUDDY PLC
The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.104, I, John Charles, Head of Company Voluntary Arrangements, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EJ, give notice that on 22nd June 1998 I was appointed Liquidator of Ruddy Plc by resolution of members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 3rd August 1998 to send in their claims and particulars, their addresses and occupations, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned John Charles Head of Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5EJ, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally to attend on him at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Dated 23rd June 1998
JOHN CHARLES, Liquidator

No. 02799045

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE BOOK SHED LIMITED

Registered Office: c/o Kapers & Smith & Partners, Doughty House, 41 Gower Street, London EC1M 6AD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 64 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above company will be held at Kapers & Smith & Partners, Doughty House, 41 Gower Street, London EC1M 6AD, on the 2nd day of July 1998 at 2.30pm for the purpose of dealing with Sections 99 to 101 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

A full list of names and addresses of the company's creditors may be obtained free of charge at the office of Kapers & Smith & Partners, Doughty House, 41 Gower Street, London EC1M 6AD, between 10am and 5pm on the two business days prior to the date of this meeting.

(Dated 23rd day of June 1998)
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UNDER THE SKIN "Chicken fancier's spleen" The *International Journal of Clinical Practice* reports a case of a woman with severe left-sided abdominal pain. "She did not report any other gastro-intestinal or respiratory symptoms and there was no past medical or family history of note, though her pastimes included rearing chickens."

One laparotomy and a splenectomy later, she was making a good recovery. An epidermoid cyst of the spleen had been the primary problem but a secondary infection of *Salmonella enteritidis* was blamed on the chickens.

ACCORDING TO the Center for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, bacteria in raw oysters and other shellfish killed one person and sickened 208 others in North America last summer. Oysters were found to have higher than normal concentrations of "Vibrio parahaemolyticus" bacteria, for which EI

SICK NOTES

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

Niño may perhaps be to blame. The CDC recommends cooking all shellfish before eating them.

BEFORE SCOTLAND'S last match in the World Cup, Dr Prem Misra, a psychiatrist at Glasgow University, warned that the team's performance could result in some people needing psychiatric advice. He said that if Scotland won, the effects of lack of sleep, regular alcohol drinking and heightened mental activity could lead to some fans developing anxiety, panic attacks and physical pains.

"The numbers will be higher if Scotland get knocked out but there will still be relatively few cases and even fewer than if Scotland had been thrashed by Brazil in the opening game of the tournament.

when disappointment would have been greater because of the significance of the match."

THE US government has turned down a request by San Bernardino county officials in California to be allowed to kill a rare fly whose breeding ground is on land occupied by a hospital. The Delhi Sands flower-loving fly is a protected species which has lost 97 per cent of its natural habitat and now numbers only a few hundred. The *Endangered Species Act* generally makes it unlawful to harm or kill wildlife listed as in danger of extinction.

PROFESSOR RICHARD Smith, editor of the *British Medical Journal*, told the annual conference of the

Royal College of Surgeons that less than 5 per cent of research papers published in the world's 20,000 medical journals met minimum standards of scientific soundness and clinical relevance.

A BABY girl with two heads has been born in a southern Vietnamese province. According to a Reuters report, she has two heads, two hearts, two spines, but one body with a single liver and one set of lungs. Medical staff at the Ho Chi Minh City children's hospital say she is healthy and doing well.

THE JOURNAL OF Sports Medicine and Physical Fitness reports that women tennis players hit balls more accurately and won more matches when they drank a caffeine-laced drink at change-overs. Tests showed that women taking caffeine released more of the "fight or flight" hormone which in turn releases energy in times of stress.

MEDIA

هكذا من الأصل

Rupert Murdoch's newspapers may be wildly anti-Europe, but the man himself has a different agenda. By Jonathan Miller

Murdoch means business in Europe

Last week's noisy blast by *The Sun* at the single European currency was widely and wrongly interpreted as a declaration by Rupert Murdoch that he would "fight, fight, fight" (as *The Sun* put it) for the pound. It was an easy mistake to make, but it underestimates Mr Murdoch, who has another agenda, and attributes rather too much importance to a publicity-grabbing stunt by a newly appointed editor making a name for himself.

Murdoch's attitude to Europe is more complex than acknowledged, certainly by *The Sun*. Recently, at a meeting of News Corporation executives, various of Murdoch's factotums were reciting the standard arguments against the euro, when their boss interrupted to demand: "But what if it works?" It is a good question, and one that his British newspapers have been slow to grasp. Simply by asking it, Murdoch aligns himself more closely than not with Tony Blair, whose own attitude has been to see if it works and then, expecting that it will, to stage a referendum and go in. Some of Murdoch's editors, particularly Peter Stothard, the editor of the viscerally eurosceptic *Times*, and David Yelland, in charge at the xenophobic *Sun*, are in danger of finding themselves wrong-footed.

With Murdoch, the key is always to watch what he does more than what he (or *The Sun*) necessarily says. Murdoch is a man in a hurry. He wants to get his company into Euroland and knows that, if he fails, he will have failed in his ambition to create a truly global media colossus. In just over six months, all of the marks, francs, lire, pesetas, guilders, escudos and crowns will be stirred together in the single currency pot and Euroland will become the second largest economy in the world. On current form it will be virtually a Murdoch-free zone.

Murdoch's competitors intend Euroland to be a platform for huge digital media businesses. Those who operate inside the single currency zone will benefit from access to the world's second largest capital market, and one that shows signs of growing fast. To be excluded from this euro action will, for Murdoch, be humiliating.

Deals like last week's massive tie-up between telephone giant AT&T and America's biggest cable TV company TCI have the potential to make News Corporation look distinctly second-tier. If News Corporation is to compete, it will have to grow and, with the company at the limit of permitted media ownership in Britain and Australia, and no particular place to go in America, it is suddenly all aboard Murdoch's Euroland express.

Murdoch is currently discussing deals in Germany, Spain and Italy, exploring television, telecommunications and publishing. But he is finding it heavy going. Years of abuse by *The Sun* have not gone unnoticed, and headlines such as "Hop off you Frogs" and "Wapping task force to teach Krauts holiday manners" have done nothing to endear Mr Murdoch to the natives.

After the fall of the Berlin Wall,



Was the recent campaign by the 'Sun' a sign of a falling out between Murdoch and Blair – or was editor David Yelland (centre) just flexing his muscles?

IT'S ALL WORK
AND NO PLAY
AT NEWS CORP

THE THOUGHT of meeting Rupert Murdoch by a swimming pool when he is clad in only a T-shirt and shorts is enough to put anyone off their holiday, especially his employees. So they will be glad that the media mogul's next get-together for his senior management is to be at an Idaho ski resort next month.

Mr Murdoch made his poolside appearance at the Hayman Island meeting that was addressed by Tony Blair in 1996. Next month, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will address the News Corporation senior hierarchy, sans trunks.

"There was a surprising amount of relaxation time at the Hayman Island meeting," says one who was there.

But getting together a few hundred of the most ambitious men and women in the world of media means that even relaxation at a News Corp resort never stops being competitive.

"We were all selected on the basis that we had brains and could impress," says a former senior executive of a Murdoch paper. "And that continues after hours."

"At the workshops and meetings everyone has to have what they called an 'SBI' or single big idea. It is very definitely a beauty contest, with everyone vying to be seen and heard by the very senior advisors to Murdoch and, of course, by him himself."

The Labour Party obviously believes that the News Corp gathering is important but others are not so sure.

The formal reason for the gatherings is that Murdoch and his advisors want to learn from their employees: "Lachlan Murdoch got up and said all this American business school stuff about listening to employees last time," says one of Murdoch's ex-executives. "Then Sam Chisholm [former BSKyB chief executive] stood up and basically said 'that's a load of cobblers, we built this company by being good and smashing the opposition'. It was a big put-down for the heir apparent."

Many inside News Corp feel it has to put on a show of listening to its managers, so it doesn't appear totally ruled from the centre. "But that is exactly how it is ruled and always will be, no matter where they take them."

Murdoch lost a battle in a joint venture with Burda Verlag to establish a new tabloid newspaper in eastern Germany. The title, *Super Zeitung*, was coarse beyond belief and quickly earned the hostility of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who accused it of being "a dirty paper" that was stirring up animosities between eastern and western Germans. Advertisers boycotted the paper, which ultimately closed. Kohl has remained viscerally hostile to Murdoch ever since, reflecting a common attitude among the German elite.

In France, Murdoch is loathed by much of the media and political classes, who see him as an emblematic Anglo-Saxon barbarian. In Italy, Murdoch is a bogeyman to the Italian PDS party (the former Communists) which would not matter except they are now members of the coalition government. All this would suggest to Murdoch that if he wants to get ahead, he is going to have to display a more co-operative attitude and make a better effort to win friends and influence people. In this, Blair has become a major ally.

Last week, even as *The Sun* was preparing to publish its hysterical

exegesis on behalf of the pound, Alastair Campbell, the Number 10 press secretary, was telling a House of Commons committee that it was rubbish to imagine that Blair had discussed Mr Murdoch's affairs with the Italian prime minister. It is to be noted that Mr Campbell's denials were drawn very narrowly and tightly, and that he declined to reveal what had in fact been discussed.

However, those claiming to be privy to the content of the actual conversation tell another story. In both Rome and London it is asserted that the telephone call did take place, it having been arranged in advance that Prodi (for scheduling reasons) would initiate the call to Blair. Alastair Campbell is perhaps technically right: at no time did Mr Blair intercede as such on behalf of Mr Murdoch. He merely asked Prodi a question. The question was seemingly innocuous. It was to inquire what would be the attitude of the Italian government if BSKyB, the British-registered and licensed company in which Mr Murdoch's interest is 40 per cent, were to attempt to take over Mediaset, the largest Italian commercial broadcasting

company, controlled by the former Italian prime minister and media tycoon, Silvio Berlusconi.

Prodi replied that, as far as he was concerned, there would be no problem, but that his "friends" (i.e., the former Communists who make up a vital part of his coalition's parliamentary majority) were unlikely to be sanguine. This message was subsequently passed back to Dr Irwin Stelzer, the American economist who handles News Corporation's day-to-day liaison with Downing Street.

It is worth noting the role here played by BSKyB, as a Trojan Horse for Murdoch's intended entry into Euroland. Crucially, BSKyB is a European company under legal definitions. The majority of its shares are owned by Europeans; its chairman is Jerome Seydoux, a prominent French businessman; it is regulated and licensed by the Independent Television Commission, and it is established as a company in Britain, subject to EU competition and media law. The fact that Mark Booth, BSKyB's chief executive, in effect reports directly to Murdoch, a naturalised US citizen, and that the

company is for all intents and purposes run as a subsidiary of News Corporation, is immaterial.

If he looks thwarted for now in Italy, in Germany Murdoch is stepping up his efforts. The media and political scenes in Germany are currently destabilised. Germany is therefore pregnant with possibilities for Murdoch. The possible election from government of Kohl later this year will remove an old adversary; Murdoch knows how to get along with ideology-free modernist social democrats like Kohl's SPD opponent Gerhard Schröder.

Murdoch already has a 49 per cent stake in Vox, one of the least successful of the German satellite and cable stations, but hopes to turn it into a German version of Fox and is trying to buy a stake from Canal Plus, the French pay-TV operator, to give him control. The collapse of the digital joint venture between Bertelsmann and the troubled Munich media owner Leo Kirch, who is now running close to the end of his credit lines, is also an opening for Murdoch. Finally, there must always remain the possibility of a rapprochement between Murdoch and

Gus Fischer, the former chief operating officer of News Corporation, who is now chief executive of Axel Springer Verlag, publisher of Germany's leading tabloid, *Bild Zeitung*. Any of these deals coming through will see News Corporation with a euro-denominated income stream. What price then "fight, fight, fight"?

Murdoch knows that persistence is a crucial quality in business. His recent speech at the Birmingham media summit in which he spoke warmly of Europe was a clue to his ambitions.

Tony Blair, whose links with Murdoch are much closer than last week's *Sun* would have suggested, is the politician who can help grease the skids, should attempts be launched to keep Murdoch or BSKyB out of Europe. In return for this, Blair is likely one day to demand, and get, the support of *The Sun* (or at least its acquiescence) in Britain joining the single currency. That's why Blair seemed unfazed last week at the blast from *The Sun*. Murdoch disinterested, and why David Yelland may have protested too much.

'Observer' editor may go as circulation plummets

By PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

THE STRUGGLING *Observer*, the world's oldest Sunday newspaper, suffered more discomfort last week when industry estimates put its circulation at an all-time low of 384,000.

The circulation fall is accompanied by reports of further dissent within the newspaper's senior staff over a strategy to replace news with features at the front of the paper. In a desperate attempt to shore up the paper's monthly average circulation figures to the psychologically crucial 400,000 mark, the newspaper cut its price to 50p in the north of England on Sunday. It is believed that this led to a rise of more than six per cent.

Meanwhile, speculation is mounting that Guardian Media Group, which owns *The Observer*, is about to replace its editor, Will Hutton. The likely candidate to succeed him is thought to be Roger Alton, currently features editor of *The Guardian* and the man responsible for the paper's tabloid G2 section.

Morale within *The Observer* is said by insiders to be very low, caused chiefly by a division between Hutton and the paper's ambitious young deputy editor, Jocelyn Targett, who is working on radical plans to re-formulate the paper. Targett is known to favour a features-based approach to the newspaper.

Targett enjoys the support of Alan Rusbridger, editor of *The Guardian*, but his power base at the paper was weakened last week when Justine Picardie, a close ally, quit her position as editor of the newspaper's *Life* magazine section. She is moving back to *The Sunday Telegraph* as a contributing editor, but was one of the few confidants of Targett at *The Observer*.

The Guardian, meanwhile, took its senior editorial team away for a series of brainstorming meetings at the end of last week. Staff had hoped that on the agenda would be some measures to deal with the infighting at the Sunday paper.

The Guardian management is keen to keep Hutton, the hugely respected author of the economic study *The State We're In* and an ac-

knowledgeable heavy hitter on matters of politics and policy. However, one of the criticisms of Hutton is that he is not a hands-on editor.

Earlier this year, Targett won a significant battle when he replaced Paul Webster as overall deputy editor of the paper, but many within *The Observer*'s Farringdon Road headquarters say that Targett's brash, self-confident approach is one of the reasons behind the paper's decline. His cause was not helped by a glowing, personal obituary of Sir David English – a man *The Observer* referred to on Sunday as "a mendacious cheer-leader of Thatcherism" – in which Targett indirectly referred to himself several times as "a genius".

Guardian Media Group bought *The Observer* in 1993 from Lornor for £27m. It has already been forced to sack two editors and is not keen to do the same again. Yet the paper is thought to be losing more than £10m a year, a substantial sum despite the group's pre-tax profits of £53m last year from its holdings in TV, local newspapers and the magazine *Auto Trader*.

THE ROYAL Television Society's monthly dinner for the television industry at the Bafta is rarely memorable but few will forget last Wednesday's in a hurry. Close on 200 TV professionals sat transfixed as the head of BBC resources, Rod Lynch, gave a speech of which, on one estimate, technical acronyms made up 60 per cent. No one had a clue what he meant, perhaps even Lynch. When he did mention the imminent privatisation of his fiefdom everyone was too dazed to notice. He did admit to being paid on a performance bonus but as BBC Resources is trading at 1 per cent below break even, must assume he won't see much of it this year.

MEDIA BUYING agency MediaCom has found that TV audience research missed about 30 per cent of the total viewers of the first England game against Tunisia. MediaCom found 12 per cent of the audience was at work and 15 per cent admitted to being in a pub or a club. Most worrying of all is the four per cent who said they couldn't remember or didn't know where they watched it. But the game was at 1.30pm, which left a lot of celebratory drinking time afterwards.

THE WORD ON THE STREET



GOD MAKES work for idle hands, so we must assume that Kevin MacKenzie (above) is twiddling his thumbs waiting for his Talk Radio deal to go through. That must be why he continues to call his old employees at Mirror Group about what's going into their papers. The Sunday People's Neil Wallis and The Mirror's Piers Morgan both take regular calls to talk about their paper's content. As MacKenzie is partnering News International in his bid for Talk, he is probably talking to his other protégé, David Yelland at *The Sun*, too. The mind boggles. After years at Live TV he's now editing three national newspapers at the same time.

IN A search for authenticity *The Archers* was recorded at the Glastonbury Festival, so that it could include a story line on young rebel Kate Aldridge going into labour while "enjoying the peace of the stone circle". The last time the Diary was at Glastonbury it was 5.30am and at least 400 people were dancing like wild things inside the stones. They strangely managed to do this for hours without any music to dance to. We can only hope that the picture opportunity set up by the BBC's PR department was not ruined by the large numbers of people who had been reduced to bumbling idiots by the last day of the festival.

WHO SAYS you can't be worthy and commercial at the same time? *Marie Claire* last week picked up an Amnesty International press award for an article on enforced birth control in Tibet. Of the three human rights articles shortlisted, *Marie Claire* had two nominations. Long mocked for its "I was a child bride in Sudan" editorial, in

reality the magazine manages to get across serious issues while selling 450,000 copies a month and flogging lots of lipstick.

THE EDITORIAL priorities of *The Sunday Times* last weekend would make even Andrew Neil blush. The newspaper devoted nothing on its front page to the historic elections in Northern Ireland and just half a page on the bottom of page two – the same size as a more prominent piece on redecorating the British Embassy in Washington.

HELL HATH no fury like a monopolist threatened. Eurosport, the pan-European sports channel, has a programme showing the great goals of the week from across Europe. To do this it needs to buy from broadcasters with the rights to domestic tournaments. Most broadcasters are happy to make extra cash from selling days-old footage but BSKyB has let it be known that Eurosport has a snowball's chance in hell of getting goals from the Premiership. The reason, we must assume, is a rumour that Eurosport is planning its own UK-branded sports channel.

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Alexandra Little, the sister of hostage Camilla Carr. Her family have already arranged concerts, services and parties to keep Camilla's plight in the news

David Rose

A well connected hostage is first to be freed

The Friends of John McCarthy started it. Now an ad agency is trying the same thing. But what of hostages without friends in wired places? By Jack O'Sullivan

HOW DO you keep the press interested in a story that doesn't change? A tale which, perhaps for years, involves a couple of Britons held in a squalid basement? There are no new pictures, no fresh words from victims, no new demands from the kidnappers. You can imagine a glazed look coming over even the most soft-hearted news editor. After all, we've had Terry Waite, John McCarthy, Brian Keenan - where's the new angle? Isn't the reader/viewer suffering from a kind of news fatigue?

That is the dilemma facing the families of two sets of Britons, currently caught up in quite different conflicts. By coincidence, each family will spend Saturday marking the anniversary of their loved ones' disappearance. Aid workers Camilla Carr and her partner Jon James will spend their 36th day as hostages in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya. Meanwhile, it will be three years since Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were abducted during a trekking holiday in Kashmir on India's north-west border.

For both sets of Britons, this weekend may be a matter of life or death. If their campaigns succeed in raising public awareness, the pressure will increase on politicians here and abroad to achieve a release. Hostage-takers often set capture free on such occasions to secure good publicity, says John McCarthy, the former Beirut hostage. He also recalls the thrill of receiving news about the

campaign. "I remember being given a radio and hearing for the first time in 1988 [two years after his kidnapping] of the Friends of John McCarthy. The report said they seemed to be influencing Foreign Office policy. I thought: 'Blimey'. It kept us going for months."

But it is not easy to generate press interest. After three years, the Middlesbrough-based campaign to free the two Kashmiri hostages is in trouble. "It's difficult to get into the nationals or the tabloids. They want something new and different, but we have had no signal since December 1995 that Keith or Paul is alive," says James Bowman, the organiser. There will be a commemorative concert on Saturday in Middlesbrough, attended by John McCarthy and Terry Waite. They hope to raise enough money for relatives to visit Kashmir to question those with information about the kidnap. But this story is not capturing the national imagination. One problem is that the Kashmiri hostages do not have the right connections. John McCarthy benefited from the massive support of his own profession - journalism - which turned his disappearance into

the great Jill Morrell/John McCarthy love story. Likewise, Camilla Carr and Jon James, held in Chechnya, are set to become celebrities, this time thanks to family links with advertising.

Camilla Carr is an artist who drove across Europe in an old Lada to help orphans in Grozny. But her sister Alexandra is married to David Little, creative director of a London advertising agency. Since launching the campaign last December, they have held a service at St James's, Piccadilly, a rock concert in Ross-on-Wye and a 40th birthday party for Camilla in the Groucho Club. On Saturday there will be a "Vigil of Light" with hands playing in Bath's Royal Crescent. The family has just hired St Lukes, advertising agency of the year. "We need to get the story right about Camilla and Jon," says Andrew Law of St Lukes, as if he is selling a new brand of perfume or Continental lager. "From our point of view this is a kindly couple from middle England, who tried to help orphans in Chechnya and were kidnapped by the people they were helping. We will be focusing on Camilla because she is unique. We cannot think of another

British woman who has been kidnapped. "We want to touch people's souls. But we think people are getting ribboned out - there are ribbons for breast cancer, for AIDS, even for Louise Woodward. We plan instead to print half a million postcards, with a picture of Jon and Camilla and a message such as 'Wish you were here'. You will be able to buy the card and put a pound in the collection box. The idea is to send it, say, to the British embassy in Moscow, to whoever you would send a card to if you were trying to track down someone lost in Russia."

So what does all this campaigning really achieve? Chris Pearson, who co-ordinated the John McCarthy campaign, says public concern embarrassed British diplomats into action. This time around the Foreign Office is at pains to emphasise its diligence. It has staff solely dedicated to freeing hostages. Officials even alerted the Queen to meet members of Camilla Carr's family. But you cannot help feeling that the Foreign Office is busier pursuing the Chechnya kidnap than the Kashmiri hostages and that this is linked to the professionalism of the lobbying. Certainly,

Camilla Carr's family seems much happier with the efforts of the Foreign Office, which the Kashmiri campaign believes to be slow and ineffectual. Everyone, however, knows that lobbying carries dangers. In March, Aslan Maskhadov, president of Chechnya, spent four days in Britain, when he was handbanded by Margaret Thatcher. The Government likewise emphasised that foreign investment would be hampered until the hostages were released. The day after the president returned home, a gun battle with the kidnappers failed to secure their freedom. These days, the Foreign Office emphasises diplomatically that a "safe release must be the primary consideration".

Since then, the family has received a video of the couple showing them to be in good health. And hopes have risen after news last week that two kidnapped Swedish missionaries have been released in Dagestan, just across the border from Chechnya. The campaign goes on. News editors should expect to be courted to tell the moving story of Britain's only female kidnap victim. Someone in Russia is going to receive an awful lot of postcards this summer.

Contact the Hostages in Kashmir Campaign on 01642 801010. A fund-raising event for Camilla Carr and Jon James will be held at Jongleurs Comedy Club, London SW11 on 2 July (box office: 0171-564 2500).

PITCH

AN ADVERTISING AGENT AND A PR MAN GIVE SIMON LEWIS - BUCKINGHAM PALACE'S NEW SPIN DOCTOR - SOME TIPS ON SELLING THE ROYAL FAMILY

Jonathan Shore, head of corporate PR, Cohn and Wolfe THE FIRST thing for them to do is not to over-react by being too populist. If they try and ingratiate themselves through overtly populist measures, like going on Des O'Connor or bungee-jumping on Don't Try This At Home, it will turn them into celebrities, which royalty is not. And the problem with celebrity is that it has a shelf-life. If, instead, you look at playing the long game - which hasn't done the Queen Mother any harm - and let people assemble their own opinions, a positive message begins to come across.

The second part is about showing sensitivity to tone. The Royals are a bunch of people who are as functional or dysfunctional as anybody else in society, but what hasn't been forthcoming so far is any implicit, let alone explicit, acknowledgement of this. An example of this insensitivity to tone is their refusal to fly the flag at half mast after Diana's death; sometimes they just take the old Admiral Nelson "never apologise, never explain" line, but they have to appreciate that in the current media environment there's sometimes a need for explanation. A very

clients in the implication of their actions. PR at its best is about letting some fresh air into boardrooms, or palaces, and actually saying: "You have to change the way you do certain things, because they're not playing effectively."

Jack Stephens, copywriter, Leo Burnett WHAT I would ask myself is who we are talking to. If you divided Britain up into three groups, you'd have the core users (people who love the Royals), the core non-users (people who hate the Royals) and a lot of people who are indifferent. It's the people who are indifferent that you need to spend your money talking to. I think the Royals' survival is in danger from these indifferent people.

The tack I would take is to give people a bunch of reasons why the Royal family is an essential part of Britain. I think it's the main focus of the British national identity. Pretty much every day there's some gossip surrounding the Royal family in the papers, and I think you've got to counteract all that with some hard information about what they do for the country, wrapped in a nice way. I'd highlight factual information,



good example of that might have been setting out their perspective on taking the Princes William and Harry to church after Diana's death, which they were enormously criticised for. There's also the way in which they address things like the issue of whether they're value for money; these days they need somebody to provide a subtext.

The third thing for them to do is take a decision on exactly what profile a PR secretary will have in their own right. The press are going to draw them out; look at Alistair Campbell, who's beginning to be bigger news than some of the things he's meant to be communicating. Also, we've had indications that the family might be moving towards a more formal style of communication - press conferences - which cameras might be allowed in to, but I think that provides another target for the media to have a pot shot at.

My final point is about cracking the internal audience. PR people are always appointed for two reasons, one of which is a bit depressing - applying a bit of spit and polish to decisions that have already been taken. The second is grounding the

like the fact that the Americans and Canadians alone spent £3.7 billion dollars in Britain last year; one of Britain's biggest tourist attractions is the Royal family. The Royal family only costs £55 million a year to keep going, so what they generate far outweighs their cost. The area I'd work around is that they "do the business" for Britain.

You'd have to use a broadcast medium, to get to the same amount of people that read the Sun every day. But because there's no huge urgency surrounding the Royal family - it's not as if you're launching a brand and have only got a short time to get it off the ground - you could probably get away with doing about one TV ad a year, slowly giving people these rational reasons why they're relevant to today's society. There's relevance to tourism, and tourism is relevant to everyone in the UK.

I think the family has got to streamline itself but the core members (the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles) have a brand personality that a business would die for. You might say they're the brand identity of Britain; ask any American what they'd give to have a Royal family.

How Martin joined the ranks of the rich and famous

Martin Bashir has made his name interviewing celebrities, now he's one in his own right. By Paul McCann

WE HAVE on The Independent's computerised cuttings library 462 news stories which include the name Martin Bashir. Of those, 455 are dated after November 1995, when the unknown investigative reporter became famous worldwide for his interview with Diana, Princess of Wales.

His story count was boosted further thanks to his interview last week with Louise Woodward and, as with the Diana interview, many of the stories have been less than flattering.

The general consensus of TV reviewers and commentators was that his interview with Woodward was at best gentle.

Little emerged about Louise's character and he failed to pursue some of the most interesting avenues of questioning. Certainly, when Woodward seemed to be hinting that she had opinions of her own as to how baby Matthew sustained his head injury, he changed tack. It is also said that he allowed Louise to have the cameras stopped when she started to cry at one point, despite the fact that her lack of visible emotion was a key feature of debate about her guilt.

But, as with the Diana interview, much of the speculation has centred on how Bashir secured his scoop. Last week, one newspaper even reported that Bashir had promised to get Louise into King's College to



There were many criticisms of the way Bashir handled his interview with Louise Woodward

study law and find her summer work at the BBC in return for the interview.

The BBC, naturally, denies offering anything for the access it received and maintains that Bashir's work on the story gained him contacts with the family and his efforts secured the interview.

Rivals are less generous. "Knowing Sue Woodward (Louise's mother) as I do," says one TV head who has worked with the family. "She

wanted her Little Princess interviewed by the man who interviewed the other Princess. She is very media-savvy. She has done programmes for ITV, for Channel 4 and now she wanted Louise to get the kind of status that only Bashir could bring. Still, good luck to him."

Of course, Bashir can hardly be blamed if the journalistic scoop of the decade - securing an interview with Princess Diana - continues to pay-off. But being dusted with the glitter of

celebrity has certainly changed the nature of his career.

Until the Diana interview, he was a solid investigative reporter concentrating on specialist investigations. He spent two years working on programmes about Terry Venables' business affairs and on a Department of Trade and Industry enquiry into Richard Budge, the man who bought most of Britain's coal mines.

He went to Panorama in 1992 after three years as a social affairs reporter on Public Eye, having joined the BBC in 1986 as a reporter for London Plus and Newsroom South East. Before that, he had mainly worked as a freelance sports reporter for Radio 4.

He comes from London, is married with three children and has a degree in English and History. None of which could have prepared him for the kind of media spotlight he has endured for the last three years.

At first his celebrity affected him mainly negatively. "I know he went through some awful things immediately after the Diana interview," says one colleague. "Tabloid reporters were trying to pay his neighbours to talk about his private life and there were people going through his dustbins." At one point around the Diana interview he was



Bashir secured the scoop that every reporter wanted when he persuaded Princess Diana to go on the record on TV

forced to go into hiding from the press while his wife was pregnant.

And then there was the reaction of some within the BBC to his great scoop. "He was always an insecure person, something of an office gossip," says another former colleague. "Although that makes him just like most TV journalists."

That kind of journalistic insecurity and gossip is what is blamed for what has been described as a smear campaign. Within six months of his

Diana interview the Mail on Sunday was claiming that he had secured the interview by creating a dummy bank statement belonging to the former head of security for Diana's brother Lord Spencer. The Lord was in legal dispute with his former employer and it was alleged that somehow the Diana interview was made possible because Spencer was grateful for the bank statement and his help.

The BBC had looked into the case

of the fake documents and cleared Bashir of any impropriety.

Yet Bashir and the BBC's explanation that Diana just "volunteered" for the interview, while he was researching a bigger programme about the future of the monarchy, cut little ice with either Buckingham Palace or many insiders at the time. One friend describes the interview as "gained through a chapter of accidents well-exploited", which may be all we ever know about how it happened.

But the Diana scoop was not all bad news. He won a Royal Television Society award and a Bafta. And he has moved into more than just reporting.

He has presented an education series with Carol Vorderman, some episodes of the late night discussion programme The Midnight Hour, and he currently has his own sports series running on Radio 4, Late Thistle. Meanwhile, he has continued doing Panorama programmes. These have all tended to involve "exclusive interviews" - whether of Louise Woodward, of yachtsman Tony Bullimore or of the headmaster of the Ridings School in Yorkshire.

However Martin Bashir secured his interview with Diana, the consequence has been that he has been turned into that most rare of broadcasters: a "celebrity" celebrity interviewer.

18/MEDIA

HOW CAN I be critical of the "lad mags" when FHM gave such a glowing write-up of my book *Kosher Sex*?

Furthermore, many argue that the lad mags are a qualitative step up from porn such as *Playboy* and *Penthouse*. The lads like them because they are more respectable than their "adult" counterparts and can be carried around without a paper bag and read on the tube. Sure, women's groups contend that they degrade and exploit women. But they're good fun and don't hurt anybody. Right?

Well, for a moment let's look at them from the perspective of the

men who read them. I believe that they may have a negative influence for the following reasons.

Men today long for a pleasant and meaningful long-term relationship. The reason, however, that men often avoid commitment, and especially delay marriage, is that they aren't prepared to be bored in a relationship. And men have a very short sexual attention span. Like anything in life, when exposed to the same body over and over again, we can become weary. The only hope, therefore, for a successful long-term relationship is to somehow find

something new in the person you love. Notice that the one thing that all the lad mags have in common is that every month they are parading entirely new women on their glossy pages. They know that this is exactly what their readership wants; a recent study showed that even the 50 per cent of husbands who are faithful in marriage still admit to thinking of other women, in order to stimulate themselves during sex with their wives, more than 70 per cent of the time!

Today's generation consists of men and women who are absolute experts in the opposite

TRIAL BY MEDIA

AUTHOR AND RABBI SHMULEY BOTEACH DOES SOME HARD TIME WITH THE 'LAD MAGS'



sex. In writing my hooks on relationships, I am often astonished at the amazing insights single men make about women, and the remarkable knowledge that single women have about men. Is this a good thing? The definition of an expert is someone who can find flaws. A movie critic is someone who hates the films that everyone else likes. Here we have the reason, I believe, that men seem so dissatisfied with the women in their lives. They constantly compare them, in an unceasing game of evaluation, to the examples of perfection that are delivered in two dimensions on

their doorsteps. The essence of love is to be subjective. Our emotional attachment to people is designed to render us incapable of objective evaluation. The lad mags, far from being benign, make it harder for men to be satisfied with their wives and girlfriends.

A friend of mine who conducts television interviews told me of how he once interviewed a stunning model, only to lose interest in her when she repeatedly offered monosyllabic responses to his questions. Indeed, while the body is beautiful and serves as the bait, the hook is undoubtedly the

personality. After all, how much of the body is there to discover? So while the body is a destination quickly reached, the personality affords a relationship the quality of being an endless journey, keeping us interested in one another as we discover the depths of each other's soul. The lad mags are conditioning men to get totally hooked on the body to the detriment of the personality, thus inviting boredom in relationships.

But of course, since most men buy lad mags for the articles and barely notice the pictures, you should disregard everything I've said.

Can Auntie remain calm and neutral about the break-up of Britain? By Rob Brown

BBC beware: Scotland is set to go it alone

Being a star presenter with the BBC obviously has its perks. Along with the celebrity status and the big fat salary, you need never feel encumbered, like all those nonentities in the newsroom, by the Corporation's tedious rules about impartiality.

So the other day we had Gavin Esler - who is in danger of losing his semi-celebrity status in this country now that he is an anchor on BBC News24 - worrying in *The Scotsman* about how he has "begun to worry about the English".

As an expatriate Scot, Esler says he is concerned to see developing a "distinct English whine". Old English friends of his have demanded to know why the Scots won't cheer on the English in the World Cup. Another chum, whom he describes as "a Luddite and longtime Labour supporter", was particularly aggressive. "Too many Scots in government," she insisted. "It is like being colonised."

She insisted? Sounds more like a man called Jeremy Paxman, who was whining recently about England being run by Scottish "nabobs". As Paxman put it: "It feels a little like living under the Raj." The *Newsnight* anchor maybe thought he could say what he liked because he was on a late-night talk show in Australia. Clearly he didn't reckon on the Scottish diaspora, nor the Scottish press which has panned Paxman.

The *Daily Record* dubbed him "Supersneer" and the SNP leader ribbed him during a recent *Newsnight* studio debate. Paxman ignored the provocation. He plainly has no intention of joining Jimmy Hill as a major hate figure among the Scots. (Having your sexuality repeatedly questioned by the massed ranks of the Tartan Army is no fun, as the long-chinned *Match of the Day* pundit can readily attest.)

The fact that one presenter and one former presenter of BBC2's flagship

news analysis show have dared to venture into the debate about the Union doesn't matter much in itself.

But it does throw into sharp focus a question that should bother broadcasters and politicians alike: can the BBC really be expected to remain calm and neutral about the break-up of Britain? We're talking about the British Broadcasting Corporation, remember. Although it would never allow itself to be described as a state broadcasting service, it would obviously suffer if Scotland split away from the British state. It would lose around a tenth of its licence fees, for a start. This is no longer a wild scenario. A whole batch of recent opinion polls have shown the SNP ahead of Labour in Scotland and support for indepen-

The BBC's top mandarins love Britain. The director general hailed the corporation's 'extraordinary success' as 'in important measure a triumph of British governance and regulation'

dence growing rapidly, especially among young Scots. After honouring his party's pledge to establish an elected parliament in Edinburgh, Tony Blair could go down in history as the man who broke up Britain.

The BBC's top mandarins love Britain. Director General John Birt has described the BBC's "extraordinary success" as "in important measure a triumph of British governance and regulation". And the chief executive of the BBC's Broadcast directorate, Will Wyatt, has waxed lyrical about the value of British broadcast-

ing to the nation. The man in charge of the corporation's £1.5bn annual output budget has cited coverage of the VE and VJ anniversaries, along with the acclaimed costume drama *Pride and Prejudice* and some storylines in the soap operas *EastEnders* and *Coronation Street*, as examples of how important broadcasting's role can be in drawing the nation together.

Note how Beeb bosses talk about the nation singular. Pull them up on this point and they swiftly acknowledge that, of course, the UK comprises two nations (England and Scotland) plus the principality of Wales and the province of Northern Ireland.

BBC bureaucrats have traditionally classified Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as the "national regions" and have been trying to win friends in recent years by commissioning more network programmes from the Celtic Fringe.

Andrew Marr, lately of this parish, has argued that the Corporation is "more important in keeping these islands together than any political party". That's possibly putting it a bit strongly, but there is no doubt that the BBC has served as bonding agent and been a rare source of British national pride in the post-war era. This was especially the case when the Corporation transmitted a single nationwide service and saw its role as "equalising national life" and overcoming "parochialism of outlook". But those days are long gone and will fade even more into the mists of time as the digital revolution unfolds.

BBC Scotland will exploit the new technology and political devolution to opt out of the network schedule more frequently and to push its plan for a separate Scottish channel for digital subscribers. They also ultimately want to produce their own tartanised version of the *Six O'Clock News* for Scots, code-named *Scotland at Six*. BBC Scotland bosses will insist, of course, that this has nothing to do with

nationalism. They're just providing an enhanced service for Scots and anyone else interested in Scottish affairs, wherever they may be across Britain, they say.

The reality is that national public broadcasters can never be truly neutral when the nation they serve is under threat from a secessionist movement. That is clearly evident in Canada, where broadcasters and politicians alike have had to deal for some decades with a very serious separatist movement in Quebec. Guyaine

Saucier, chair of the CBC board, has stated: "CBC is central to my view of what defines Canada. Canada has endured as a nation because succeeding generations have been able to communicate a shared sense of values that has crystallised into an idea of nation that is unique in the world." One again, nation singular.

Yet, at the same time as it talks about "building bridges between the two cultures", CBC has unintentionally contributed to Quebec nationalism (with at least a small "n") by

funding separate English and French services. The latter are often staffed by people who would gladly destroy the Canadian confederation and CBC along with it. Much the same situation applies in Scotland. There are some BBC Scots in the upper echelons of BBC Scotland, who will do everything in their power to bring about the creation of a separate SBC. There are also some who don't want to go that far and are simply engaged in a little local empire building.

There are also a few naive souls

who don't realise the possible effects of broadcasting devolution. It will undoubtedly have some political effect. Anything that turns up the Scottish dimension in Scots' lives simultaneously dims the British dimension. A more Scottish BBC will contribute to making Scots feel more Scottish and less British, a process that is already well under way. And Scottish viewers are Scottish voters, as Jeremy Paxman, Gavin Esler and the rest of the BBC need to remember as they struggle to deal with a digital, devolved Scotland.



Give me a pair of glasses, and I'll show you an intellectual

Political correctness has spread to the picture byline. David Lister offers advice to the wary writer

AS A character in *Absolutely Fabulous* once put it, "It's bad enough having to read the rubbish, now you have to look at the bastards who write it."

Picture bylines are a curious phenomenon at the best of times. But last week there was a new twist - the case of the politically incorrect picture byline.

When the political columnist of *The Express* parted company with his newspaper, it was charged that his paper's own editor, Rosie Boycott, did not think the picture byline of him smoking a cigar was quite the image she wanted for her left-of-centre, youthful paper.

You have to sympathise with the plight of the columnist. What photograph could be ideologically pleasing to both an editor that was a former monk and his radical feminist successor?

But he should have seen it coming. For any paper apart from the *Hopana Daily News*, cigars are out. They smack of privilege, elitism and chatting to high-powered contacts over brandy in a gentleman's club. A cigarillo might have just saved the day. But probably not. Too effete for someone in the Westminster hot-house. Best to steer clear of smoking altogether. Could offend a health-conscious editor. And as an image it's as dated as those shots that used to be ubiquitous on regional newspapers - the reporter clutching a telephone to the ear.



David Lister's guide to picture bylines: a cigar will damage your career's health; studios in specs is better; athletes go further; but the Bridget look is best



Nicola Kurtz

So what is the most politically correct, or at least most job-secure, picture byline? Glamour seems to be much more important than a decade ago, when journalists accepted and occasionally delighted in a slightly seedy image. Now the subliminal message of the picture byline is "as you can see, if I wasn't such a whiz with words I would have taken up that offer from Hollywood".

My next remark risks accusations of sexism, but not wishing to risk my life also, I won't name any names. Female journalists in particular go to great lengths for a glamorous pic-

ture, not least the ones whose picture accompanies an article mocking the vanity of its subject. Many female journalists use professional studios for their headshots; others demand numerous reshoots until they succeed in looking as different as they can from the picture byline in the mirror each morning - something Anthony Clare might care to devote a programme to one day. One freelance photographer has shown me how he routinely covers even the most minor skin blemish. After all, why risk of-

fending someone who could soon be employing you? But glamour alone is not enough. It might convey empty-headedness. Intellectual rigour, wit and sensitivity have somehow to be suggested in a one-column-wide, black and white mugshot.

This is most often implied by a moody stare rather than an old-fashioned smile. Dangling earrings, increasingly common with women writers and probably soon with men too, are useful for giving a hint of a partygoer and good dinner companion when the day's writing is done.

But the best way to suggest intellect is, of course, glasses. Not of wine, or you'll go the way of the *Express* chap. Nor of spectacles properly balanced on the bridge of the nose. That suggests a computer screen nerd who never gets out. No, one should wear them as Harry Enfield did when he wrote a column for *The Independent* on *Sunday*. To divest himself of his comedian image (though that was presumably why he was hired) he wore spectacles, but had them perched right down on the edge of his nose to suggest he only wears them for writing and thinking

at the same time. Very clever, this, and much imitated.

So... youthfulness, glamour, intellect. But there is one thing more for the completely renaissance picture byline - fitness. This paper may well have been responsible for the aerobic byline photograph: writers pictured striding purposefully as if they composed their articles on a brisk constitutional rather than at a desk with a smoking room nearby. Perhaps it was to the smoking room that they were striding. Along with being a good walker you should be a natty dresser. Ties, I suspect, will

soon go the way of cigars and on some papers are already conspicuously absent. Fitness accompanied by an egalitarian (but trendy) dress sense is the ultimate antidote to the cigar-chomping byline.

I noticed a perfect illustration of this in last Friday's *London Evening Standard*. The personal finance column by the estimable Lorna Bourke, late of this parish, and to accompany such a laid-back approach to an article on inheritance tax, showed the writer striding in blue jeans. This is not how one usually meets one's personal financial adviser, nor is it how I recall that particular writer. But no matter. It achieved total byline correctness.

The most effective and successful picture byline of recent times appeared for a long time in *The Independent*. It was above Bridget Jones's Diary, which, of course, went on to become a best-selling book. The author, Helen Fielding, received numerous love letters and, I believe, even proposals of marriage because of this picture. In fact the picture associated with the column was not of Helen Fielding, but of a PA on this newspaper who was hurriedly snapped with the props of a cigarette and a glass of wine. In other words, it broke every rule of picture byline correctness. Tobacco, drink, sitting down instead of striding out. Not even a pair of spectacles. She'd never get a job on *The Express*.

Keeping bad blood off the airwaves

The World Service keeps its balance in the Balkans by putting Albanian and Serb staff together. By Richard Cook

THE BALKANS have a long and distinguished history of many parts. Tolerance of violence and racial wrongs is not, however, one of them. Just consider the form of the blood feud. The Albanian blood feud is a process whose aim is not the punishment of a murderer, but satisfaction of the blood of the person murdered.

Mixed in with this is the relationship between the Albanians and the Serbs. The Serbs annexed the province of Kosovo in 1912. At that time, 90 per cent of the province's population, as now, were Albanian. The following year, the Serbs wrote out three justifications for its conquest of the province. The first of these was the sort of thing only the British Empire at its peripatetic height has ever really felt it could get away with. It was, simply, the moral right of a more civilised people. Relations between the two sides have been especially sticky ever since.

And now the Kosovo Liberation Army is conducting a bloody war against the Serbs, who have responded in equally uncompromising fashion - by clearing out thousands of civilians from strategically important villages along the border with Albania. So trust the BBC to find a way around the troubled history,

the blood feuds and the Balkan stereotypes.

Every day for the past month, the World Service's Serbian and Albanian staff have been working together. The Kosovo story has dominated both their bulletins for the past couple of weeks and, during that time, both have met on a daily basis to pool information, reports, and even some of the harrowing footage captured by their different correspondents on the ground. And this from two cultures who can't even agree on the spelling of the name of the place.

"It doesn't affect me or the Macedonians who share our office or, let's say, the Serbs working here in London, if you pronounce names a certain way," explains Julia Goga, head of the Albanian service. "But as far as our listeners go, that's another story. If one of my presenters referred to Kosovo, the Serbian name, rather than the Albanian version which is Kosova, that would be an extremely sensitive issue with our audience."

And an impressive audience it is too. Founded in 1993, the Albanian service is listened to, according to the official figures, by 53 per cent of all adults in Albania, making it far and away the largest medium in the country - and anecdotal evidence



Julia Goga and Aleksa Zoric, respective heads of the BBC's Albanian and Serbian service, rely on daily co-operation with each other's team

Neville Elder

suggests that these figures go much higher at times of tension, adds Goga. That's a big responsibility - especially in times of real crisis, like now, when any information that is not completely accurate can only serve to inflame the situation.

The service usually broadcasts three times a day: it aims not to repeat material and employs three full-time correspondents in the Albanian capital, Tirana, and two in its Kosovo equivalent, Pristina. Since the crisis in Kosovo worsened, a fourth daily bulletin has been added.

The Serbian service claims a six per cent share of the vastly more

competitive Serbian media and keeps just one full-time correspondent in Pristina. It too is happy to work together with its rival service.

"Every day I meet up with Julia, or a couple of our senior producers, and we sum up what is going to be done by the correspondents in the field," explains Aleksa Zoric, the head of the BBC's Serbian Service. "But of course, this co-operation can be difficult in certain circumstances."

"The one fortunate thing is that, so far, we haven't ourselves had personal tragedies, and nor did we during the Bosnian war. I think it might have created an unacceptable

level of tension if something had happened to someone's parents, say. The other thing is that the atmosphere of London is not the atmosphere of wherever we come from, and that also helps."

There is also, it seems, a legacy of co-operation that has built up among the services after their experiences over the last decade. Although the Serbian and Albanian newsrooms are located at a convenient distance within Bush House, that hasn't always been the case with the Balkan broadcasters.

The BBC split its Serbo-Croatian service, for example, into two parts

just before hostilities started there in 1991. Throughout all that bitter fighting, through the early days when the Serbs were mercilessly lambasted as the bad guys, through the subsequent ethnic cleansing of Serbs from Croatia, the Serbian and Croatian services at the BBC were quite happily sharing the same office, imprisoned in the same rooms and yet speaking two languages that are only really as far apart as American and English.

All the same, the content of all the broadcasts is continually monitored for signs that nationalist fervour is taking the journalism into

places it shouldn't, or that the agenda is being shaped by nationalistic expediency rather than news values.

"We are one BBC, so there has to be essentially one news core," explains Andrew Tausig who, as the director responsible for regions, oversees all the Balkan coverage.

"Which doesn't mean that the Serbian and Albanian service have to run exactly the same bulletin, but which does mean that they both have the same framework, which takes into account the overall BBC view and yet which is sensitive to local needs. It is one of our biggest challenges."

No death, please, we're British

Global TV and radio broadcasting from the UK is becoming ever harder to police. By Ed Shelton

SENSITIVE SCHEDULING it was not Sunday evening family viewing time may not have been the best choice to broadcast the stoning to death of two Iranian police officers.

It was certainly effective. Two Iranians accused of adultery were shown being bound from head to toe in linen like Egyptian mummies, and then wedged in holes in the ground so that their torsos made right targets for the stone-throwers. A large crowd was then seen surrounding them and hurling stones that were specially chosen not to be too large to kill outright.

"We only showed a little bit and we warned viewers before that it was coming," says PTV's director, Mahmood Taghi Sarabi.

The broadcast led to complaints and, two weeks ago the Independent Television Commission upheld them. Guy Phelps, senior programme officer at the ITC, said the programme was "disturbing", "too violent" for the time of day, and "too extended in its treatment of the punishments".

The clash highlights the difficulty the ITC faces as it attempts regulation of the dozens of non-English-

language channels based in this country. With digital transmission about to flood the airwaves, it is a problem that will get worse.

Phelps, who has a team of four, says the ITC is already responsible for more hours of satellite and cable TV than officers could ever watch.

"In this day and age, we could not watch all the channels without a massive army of people doing it - there will be more channels when digital comes. The key is to be in touch with the companies and to be reasonably confident that they understand the codes. The onus is on them to comply," he says.

The ITC must monitor the 41 UK-based foreign-language channels regularly, employing two translators (one for checking) each time it reviews a broadcaster.

The ITC works by investigating viewers' complaints and random testing of potentially contentious channels, but more channels will mean that such testing inevitably becomes less frequent, and transgressions like PTV's could go unpunished.

In future, Sarabi has said he

would respect the 9pm watershed, but PTV was not just upbraided on its scheduling - it also breached the ITC programme code which states that footage of people being killed or dying requires exceptional justification.

The ITC will not tolerate exceptions at any time, and says that if the channel repeats the offence it could face a fine or even lose its licence.

The Radio Authority is in a similar position and is this year launching a special initiative to combat the problem. Asian, Greek and Turkish stations are among those that must be monitored, and the Authority is now putting extra money behind its efforts.

Janet Lee, deputy-head of programming and advertising at the RA, says: "London attracts a lot of people who are fleeing from conflicts in their homeland. They are here because they are outlawed back home, and they want to discuss the situation back home on the radio. We have identified it as something we want to spend time monitoring this year, and to put aside a budget for doing so."

For local radio, the issue is further complicated in that news broadcasts must be impartial in the same way as TV broadcasts, but general items must only meet the lesser requirement of not giving "undue prominence" to a particular view. For example, Cyprus could be discussed on London Greek Radio from the Greek point of view, but a news story would have to be balanced. "It is a difficult one to police," admits Lee.

Many of the complaints the RA receives relate to Spectrum Radio - a local London station that broadcasts to a total of eight ethnic groups. Spectrum has been fined five times in the last four years. The RA is currently looking into complaints that the station broadcast material that was "anti-Western" in its Arab broadcasting, and is seeking assurance that the material, which accused the West of collusion with Israel, was balanced with opposing views.

Hilmet Tabak, the managing director of Med TV, the Kurdish channel, is aware of the difficulty of the regulators' task. "At the beginning, it was very difficult for the ITC

to monitor us because they were not familiar with Kurdish background and culture. Now they understand who we are and why we must broadcast politics as well as music and dancing," he says.

Med TV broadcasts to Kurds, most of whom live in Turkey. As the Kurdish language is banned in Turkey, the channel is not allowed there and diplomatic pressures have been applied to get the channel off the air here. The difficulty is that London is an international centre for broadcasting, in part because the UK has more relaxed regulations than other countries.

The flip side is that some channels available here are licensed overseas, as they would not be acceptable to the ITC. In the past, cable channels for Spaniards living here have shown bullfights, for example.

Generally, the foreign channels in the UK say that they respect the ITC's efforts. "If there were a regulator as honourable as the ITC in Turkey, all the Turkish television channels would be closed down immediately," says Tabak.

Women and the football pitch

ANALYSIS
MICHELLE MARTIN

WOMEN ENJOY their football. They love watching it (women make up 40 per cent of Sky's Premier League audiences), wearing it (20 per cent of Manchester United replica shirts are sported by girls) and dating its stars (see everyone from Sporty Spice to Dani Behr).

England's defeat by Romania last Monday was watched by a massive 31 per cent of all women in the UK, compared to 44 per cent of all British men, yet marketing and advertising activity aimed at women during France '98 has been sidelined by macho ads and laddish sponsorship deals.

A new survey by London ad agency J Walter Thompson also reveals real female enthusiasm for television coverage of the event. Of the 250 people surveyed, 40 per cent of women said that they intended to watch all the matches while 62 per cent said that they wanted to catch at least some of them.

Stephen Carter, chief executive of JWT, is adamant that advertisers and marketers may have missed a trick. "I think advertisers have missed the fact that football has become increasingly interesting to both sexes. It's a cultural change that just hasn't filtered through, which may be why I haven't seen one ad aimed at women."

Carter argues that there are several reasons for the lack of enlightened ads, including the dearth of female creative teams in ad agencies and women decision-makers in client companies. He also blames the industry's general conservatism when it comes to reflecting relatively new social trends. "There's a big time lag with advertising, it follows social changes at a distance, partly because large client companies are inherently conservative, but it doesn't help that advertising is also a heavily regulated industry."

Others put the burden of blame on plain economics. Despite the increase in mixed audiences, football is watched predominantly by young men, a group that traditionally watches very little television. The fact that the World Cup can deliver such a precious group pushes the price of an ad break way above the market average. A 30 second spot during the England v Romania game cost a staggering £180,000.



Supporter Dani Behr

Women, on the other hand, are relatively heavy television watchers and it is easy to find programmes that deliver them in similar numbers to the World Cup, for less money. Instead of paying £180,000 to reach female football fans, a brand aimed at women could have found an equivalent 30 second break in an ordinary programme for just £85,000. So advertising during France '98 can cost advertisers targeting women twice as much as it would usually.

Ian Lewis, the broadcast director of media buyer Zenith Media - which books advertising space for clients such as BT, Superdrug and Rover - believes that such prices have prohibited many advertisers targeting women. "There are always going to be times when it is worth paying more to have your product really stand out in an ad break, but it has to be the right ad in the right circumstances. The World Cup was never going to deliver that for products such as detergents."

He adds that sport, by its very nature, can also offer the wrong environment for many traditionally female products. "Advertising a tea-bag in a break full of beer, sports brands and cars would always look odd. And then there are products that women would not want to see advertised while sitting in a room full of men, like sanitary products."

Meanwhile, France '98 keeps women pretty much on the touch-line. It may be some time before we see Tampax as an official sponsor of the England team, but perhaps the marketing line-up for the 2002 World Cup will be a little less macho if women continue to watch the game.

IF I RULED THE AIRWAVES

JO WRIGHT, HEAD OF DRAMA AT LWT, PLANS AN EVENTFUL EVENING

IF I ruled the airwaves, I would like to give people the chance to relive the excitement they felt when they first saw some of the popular drama that has gripped them over the last 30 years.

Everyone complains that the proliferation of channels and the advent of the video recorder have taken the "event" out of an evening's viewing, so let's try to recapture those must-see evenings. Time to relive the time when you spent the first 10 minutes of your day discussing events such as "who shot JR?", "is Robert Powell of *Doomwatch* really dead?", and "which is your favourite Monkey?"

I remember how upset my father was when some guests arrived during the last episode of *The Fugitive*, when he was about to discover the identity of the one-armed man. He just pulled his chair right up to the TV and ignored them.

So sit back, and get ready to recapture those heady days of the old kind of interactive television.

Tales of the Riverbank (BBC), a show in which live animals

enacted dramatic situations in tiny sets, was certainly a TV drama event for small, pet-obsessed children during the Sixties. It may shock you to know that this was originally a Canadian production, so perhaps it would be best to show the famous *Ginnie the Guinea-pig* in the hot-air balloon episode, with Johnny Morris's hilarious "Hammy" and "Roderick" voices, then show it again in the original Canadian (in which Randy the Rat and Hank the Hamster come to the rescue when the dastardly weasels shoot up the town). For discussion by the photocopyer next day: "You may not want to know this, but they got through a lot more than one *Ginnie*, *Hammy* and *Roderick* during the 10 years the series spanned."

The Brothers (BBC): "Find me another show like *The Brothers*, Michael Jackson would plead when he was controller of BBC 1. So tonight we shall enjoy that

Producer: Phil Welch
Director: Bill Hartston

18.30
Tales of the Riverbank

19.00
The Brothers

20.00
Bouquet of Barbed Wire

21.00
House of Cards

23.00
Soap City

superb opening episode of 1972 when the Hammond family realise that their father's mistress is to run the firm. Whatever happened to Edward, Brian and David? Probably lost everything during the recession,

and are now chauffeurs in a limo company. For discussion in the company car park: "Why did we never see a *lorry*?"

In *Bouquet of Barbed Wire* (LWT) Andrea Newman touched a nerve and shocked us all with her expose of a middle-class family falling apart. Or was it that we were all so appalled and intrigued by the weird relationship between the father (Frank Finlay) and the daughter (Susan Penhaligon)? To be discussed in the canteen queue with the attractive man from marketing: "Did you know that Andrea Newman is back on TV with another steamy three-parter? And, coincidentally, my TV has broken, so I would love to watch it round at your place."

House of Cards (BBC): Popular drama about politics is the best thing you can give a middle-class audience because they can pretend it is highbrow and educational while really only

caring about the sex and intrigue. This series gave it all, and more, in a wonderfully witty adaptation by Andrew Davies. For discussion at a management meeting or in the gent's toilet: "Why did Urquhart (Ian Richardson) speak to camera? Mixing too much with *Lovejoy*?"

Thirtysomething (Channel 4): Hope and Michael were the original "smug marrieds", and Ellen and Melissa the first real "singletons" of TV drama. But however dreadful some of the angst became, *Thirtysomething* was one of the most stylish and brave shows in its writing, production and direction. Who can forget when the birth of Gary's baby was shot backwards, from birth back to conception? To be discussed with partner when putting the baby to bed: "Did you know that Nancy and Michael were married to each other in real life? Don't tell Hope."

Jo Wright is working on projects at LWT with Paula Milne, Debbie Horsfield, Andrew Davies and Andrea Newman.

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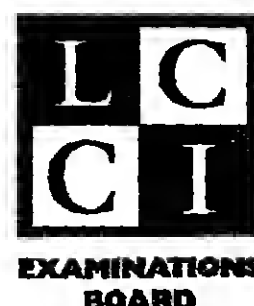
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NEW FILMS

PONETTE (PG)
Director: Jacques Doillon
Starring: Violette Thivisol, Marie Trintignant, Claire Nebout (subtitles)
Ponette is a precociously intelligent four-year-old girl whose mother dies in a car accident. As the implications of mortality begin to dawn on the child, she takes some comfort in the rituals of religion which she has absorbed, and accordingly awaits her parent's imminent resurrection. While tenderly photographed, the film has nothing very sophisticated to say about grief or childhood.

JOURNEY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD (U)
Director: Manoel de Oliveira
Starring: Marcello Mastroianni, Jean-Yves Escoffier, Leonor Silveira (subtitles)
Featuring Marcello Mastroianni's final performance, this seasoned picture's lament that "the mind can be fine, but the wrapping deteriorates" doesn't apply to the man himself. His disposition, wise and sunny but flecked with both mischief and weariness, is unchanged, but the picture, by the 90-year-old film-maker Manoel de Oliveira, is a grave disappointment.

THE OBJECT OF MY AFFECTION (15)
Director: Nicholas Hytner
Starring: Jennifer Aniston, Paul Rudd, Alan Alda, John Pankow
The heroine of *Cherish* realised that she was in love with her stepbrother, played by Paul Rudd, only after her first choice of boyfriend turned out to be gay. Now it's Rudd's turn to play "Crush the Straight Girl" for this new romantic comedy, in which he confounds his flatmate's dreams of wedding vows and joint burial plots by going and dancing at the other end of the ballroom, so to speak. The film is like a primer for viewers who don't think they know what makes gay people tick, and though it can be very funny and charming, it has all the subtlety of a party political broadcast. Rudd is fine as the beleaguered hero, but the real joy is in the supporting players, including Alan Alda as a self-absorbed literary agent.

GOING ALL THE WAY (15)
Director: Mark Pellington
Starring: Jeremy Davies, Ben Affleck, Amy Locane, Rachel Weisz, Rose McGowan
This is an occasionally moving rite-of-passage drama with committed performances from Jeremy Davies and Ben Affleck as two soldier buddies returning to their home town.

PALMETTO (15)
Director: Volker Schlöndorff
Starring: Woody Harrelson, Elisabeth Shue, Gina Gershon
Each week seems to see the release of yet another ironic modern film noir, the latest edition to the genre being *Palmetto*, directed by Volker Schlöndorff (*The Tin Drum*), but badly missing the wit and precision of John Dahl. Harry Barber (Woody Harrelson) is the ex-writer and ex-con who gets mixed up with a pair of duplicitous women.

MIMIC (15)
Director: Guillermo Del Toro
Starring: Mira Sorvino, Jeremy Northam, Josh Broin
See *The Independent Recommends*, right

GIRLS' NIGHT (15)
Director: Nick Hurran
Starring: Julie Walters, Brenda Blethyn, Kris Kristofferson
Shameless tearjerker with Brenda Blethyn as the cancer-suffering bingo winner who jets off to Las Vegas for a last-chance holiday with her sister-in-law (Julie Walters) and meets a wrinkled rodeo-riding (Kris Kristofferson). Initially bubbly, the picture soon turns grossly manipulative.

THE WAR AT HOME (18)
Director: Emilio Estevez
Starring: Emilio Estevez, Martin Sheen, Kathy Bates, Kimberly Williams
Adapted from James Duff's play, *Homefront*, *The War at Home* is about a traumatised Vietnam veteran returning home to his traditional family.

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey

EVEN IF you've seen it 100 times already, try to catch David Lynch's incredible 1976 debut *Eraserhead* on the big screen. It's a movie which swamps you, not only in its images, which resemble a reconstruction of every nightmare and subconscious fear you've ever had, but also in its stunningly oppressive use of sound. What's that? You've never seen the film? You want to know what it's about? Oh, you poor thing, you've got no idea what you're in for.

National Film Theatre, London SE1 (0171-928 3323) 8.30pm
If instead you're after a movie that will give you a mild scare without haunting you for years, try *Mimic* (above). Guillermo del Toro's poetic horror film is about giant mutant cockroaches patrolling the New York Subway system. No, they haven't replaced the security guards, they're just looking for human flesh. One for the *Rentokil* employee in your life. On general release

Theatre David Benedict

THE LAST outing for the imaginative director/designer team of Steven Pinlott and Mark Thompson was the revitalised *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* with Phillip Schofield (left). If anyone can spin gold from the straw that is *Doctor Dolittle*, it's these three.

Labatt's Apollo, Hammersmith, London W6 (0171-416 6022), previous until 13 Jul, then 14 Jul 3 Oct
The terrific Marx Brothers movie *Animal Crackers* began life as a stage show for those rebels without a (sanity) clause. This Manchester Royal Exchange production has already played its home town twice. Now see it on its smash hit tour: Barbican Court, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 11 Jul

Art Richard Ingleby

AS THE century draws to a close, Patrick Heron is beginning to look like a key figure in post-war British art. The Tate's retrospective (right) looks set to be one of the most energetic and refreshing shows of the summer - 80 paintings spanning nearly 60 years right up to the main galleries. The Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000) to 6 Sept
This year has already seen a number of tributes to Henry Moore and there are plenty more lined up in the months ahead to celebrate the centenary of his birth on 30 July. The Castle Museum in Nottingham is currently the venue for a National Touring Exhibition of the artist's working models and maquettes - wonderfully intimate small-scale sculptures by a man better known for his monumental work in the great outdoors. Nottingham Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Nottingham (0115-915 3700) to 19 Jul



Comedy James Rampton

STEVE FROST made his name as half of the Oblivion Boys. With Mark Arden there was a memorable series of Carling Black Label ads. Returning to his stand-up roots, Frost is a lively performer, particularly at Edinburgh, where he tries to appear in as many shows as possible. Top Dog Comedy and Cabaret, 389 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 (0171-737 3177) 8.30pm
Founded a couple of years ago, the *Herstertics Club* has established itself as one of the best showcases for female comedians in London. Hosted by the club's founder, the engaging stand-up Laura Shavin (right), its bills are sometimes uneven, but often eye-catching. Tonight, Catherine Tate and Belinda Merriman. Tut and Shire, Upper Street, London N1 (0171-359 7719) 8.45pm



GENERAL RELEASE

AFTERGLOW (15)
Two couples swap partners and wry aphorisms in this urban romantic comedy. West End: Richmond Filmhouse

THE APOSTLE (12)
Director Robert Duvall plunges into his role in a manner that is both terrifying and entrancing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square

THE BIG LEBOWSKI (18)
Jeff Bridges, John Goodman and Steve Buscemi star in one of the most strung-out mysteries ever. West End: ABC Pantam Street, Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

THE BIG SWAP (18)
A drab, unconvincing and preachy drama about partner-swapping. West End: Plaza

CITY OF ANGELS (12)
Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with a mortal woman (Meg Ryan). West End: ABC Baker St, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End

DARK CITY (15)
Alex Proyas returns with another over-the-top urban nightmare, starring Rufus Sewell, William Hurt, Kiefer Sutherland and Richard O'Brien. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

DREAM WITH THE FISHES (18)
Take a suicidal leap preparing to throw himself off a bridge. Add a jumble with a month to live and give them a few months on the road together before an inevitable tearful farewell. Serve with a sick bag at the ready. Perhaps it's the realisation that *Dream with the Fishes* could so easily have been a nightmare that makes its success seem refreshing and deserved. West End: Metro

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15)
Jaunty take on the rite-of-passage genre, set in Leicester in the 1970s. The lively script is complemented by the sparkling performance of Joanna Ward as the film's heroine. West End: Rio Cinema

HAPPY TOGETHER (15)
Giddy tour of urban life, structured around the violently unpredictable romance between two men who arrive in Argentina from Hong Kong. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, ICA Cinema

JACKIE BROWN (15)
The movie's main focus is the desperation of its characters to make something of their lives before it's too late. West End: Plaza

JUNK MAIL (15)
This Norwegian Black comedy's portrayal of the Oslo postal service is defamatory at best. Though its mixture of genres isn't entirely successful, *Junk Mail* has enough originality to see it through. West End: Ritzy Cinema

THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE (15)
A mannered and vacuous dip into the life of the Beat poet Neal Cassidy, played by Thomas Jane. There's lots of fast cutting and theatrical lighting, but the film just amounts to the same old Beat clichés: blue smoke, white teeth and black coffee, maaaa. West End: ABC Piccadilly

LIVE FLESH (18)
A novel by Ruth Rendell is the origin of Pedro Almodovar's most accomplished film to date. West End: ABC Shafesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street

LOLITA (18)
Adrian Lyne's remake of Kubrick's stylish Nabokov adaptation lacks spirit and adventure. West End: Warner Village West End

MOUSEHUNT (PG)
Bleak comedy starring Nathan Lane and Lee Evans as squabbling, penniless brothers whose plans to sell a house are confounded by a belligerent mouse. West End: Barbican Screen, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

MY SON THE FANATIC (15)
Hanif Kureishi establishes an opposition between an agreeable Pakistani taxi driver and his son, who has his sights set on becoming a fundamentalist Muslim. West End: ABC Swiss Centre

POINT BLANK (18)
Re-release of John Boorman's chilling existential thriller starring Lee Marvin. West End: Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green

RED CORNER (15)
Richard Gere's very public pro-Tibet stance must have blinded him to the failings of this clunking piece of anti-Chinese propaganda. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

THE REPLACEMENT KILLERS (18)
Executive-produced by Hong Kong action director John Woo, this is an attempt to launch the American career of his favourite star, Chow Yoo-Fat. West End: Virgin Trocadero

SAVIOR (18)
Politically inept war film set during the Bosnian conflict. Dennis Quaid stars as a man who loses his family in a Paris bomb blast and then avenges their deaths by strolling into a mosque and gunning down a row of Muslims at prayer before becoming a hired killer. West End: Virgin Haymarket

SCREAM 2 (18)
Wes Craven's *Scream 2* is that genuine rarity: a sequel that's smarter than its predecessor, but infinitely less satisfying. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Romantic comedy continuum, sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shafesbury Avenue, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

SOUL FOOD (15)
A black version of *Parenthood*, with all the attendant moralising, sentimentality and studied eccentricity which that implies. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

STAR KID (PG)
Children's adventure about a young boy who's called upon to save the universe. What it lacks in budget, it makes up for in imagination. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

STIFF UPPER LIPS (15)
Spoof of the Merchant/Ivory movies from one of the talents responsible for *Leon the Pig Farmer*. West End: Plaza, Virgin Chelsea

THE TASTE OF CHERRY (PG)
The joint winner of last year's Palme d'Or has taken a year to get a release over here, and it's not hard to see why. But, thanks to highly naturalistic performances, it's a hypnotic and ultimately moving experience. West End: Remor

TITANIC (12)
Rose (Kate Winslet) is about to marry into obscene wealth, but has deserted her fiancé at the last minute in favour of Jack (Leonardo DiCaprio), a scruffy ragamuffin from the wrong side of the tracks. West End: Phoenix Cinema Cinema

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)
Dumb but winning comedy about a romantic wedding singer (Adam Sandler) who falls for a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she's already engaged. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-9359772) Baker Street City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 6.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) Piccadilly Circus As Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Citizen Kane 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Good Will Hunting 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) Piccadilly Circus Going All The Way 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Last Time I Committed Suicide 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE
(0171-836 6279) Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Live Flesh 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Sliding Doors 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-439 4470) Leicester Square/City of Angels Desperately Seeking Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Happy Together 6.20pm Kuodun 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm Martha - Meet Frank, Daniel & Laurence 3.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm My Son The Fanatic 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm Shall We Dance? 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-638 6148) Tottenham Court Road City Of Angels 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm The Object Of My Affection 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm The Wedding Singer 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-382 7000) Moorgate/Barbican City Of Angels 6.15pm, 8.40pm Girls' Night 6.15pm, 8.40pm Love And Death On Long Island Thru 8.15pm (+ Talk with John Hurt and Richard Widmark) 8.15pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) Sloane Square Washington Square 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 2242) Clapham Common The Apostle 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm City Of Angels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Soul Food 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-389 1723) Green Park Ponette 1.05pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm (+ Short: Stone Tears)

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0171-437 1234) Leicester Square The Apostle 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Deep Impact 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Sliding Doors 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) Notting Hill Gate Live Flesh 6.40pm Point Blank 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 8.55pm

METRO
(0171-437 0757) Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Dream With The Fishes 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm Ponette 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINIMA
(0171-369 1723) Knightsbridge Live Flesh 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) Notting Hill Gate City Of Angels 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4229) Camden Town The Big Lebowski 12.15pm, 5.50pm City Of Angels 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm Live Flesh 2.55pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm, 10.40pm, 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9pm The Wedding Singer 12.00pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) Piccadilly Circus The Wings Of The Dove 2pm, 7pm (+ Mrs Brown)

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) High Street Kensington City Of Angels 7pm, 9.40pm The Object Of My Affection 6.50pm, 9.35pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) Marble Arch City Of Angels 12.15pm, 3.05pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm Mimic 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm The Object Of My Affection 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Red Corner 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Wedding Singer 12.50pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) Swiss Cottage Phone cinema for details: 0171-586 3057

ODEON WEST END
(0181-315 4221) Leicester Square The Object Of My Affection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm The Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA
(0181-444 6789) East Finchley The Object Of My Affection 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

PIAZA
(0171-437 1234) Piccadilly Circus The Big Swap 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Jackie Brown 4.15pm, 7.40pm Red Corner 3.10pm, 6.30pm Still Upper Lips 3.30pm, 6.10pm The War At Home 5.35pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) Russell Square Journey To The Beginning Of The World (Nagisa Oshima) 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm The Taste Of Cherry 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

RIO CINEMA
(0171-667 6789) Dalston Kingsland The Girl With Brains In Her Feet 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Good Burger 4.15pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) BR/7: Bridon Ballu 6.30pm City Of Angels 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Junk Mail (Rudolph Grey) 6pm Live Flesh 7.05pm (+ Short: Magic Moments) The Object Of My Affection 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9pm Point Blank 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Regeneration/All Quiet on the Western Front 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) Baker Street Live Flesh 2.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm The Object Of My Affection 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) Angel/Highbury & Islington Pulse 3.45pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm Sliding Doors 2.50pm, 6.55pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL
(0171-435 3366) Belsize Park The Object Of My Affection 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332) Bayswater/Queensway City Of Angels 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Deep Impact 3.50pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Girls' Night 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm Mimic 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Object Of My Affection 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm Palmetto 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm Red Corner 6.40pm Sliding Doors 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm The Wedding Singer 4.35pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) Sloane Square/South Kensington Mimic 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm The Object Of My Affection 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm Still Upper Lips 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer 2pm, 5.20pm, 8pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) South Kensington The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.30pm City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Deep Impact 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Girls' Night 2.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm Palmetto 1.20pm, 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) Piccadilly Circus City Of Angels 1.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Girls' Night 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

SAVIOR 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) Piccadilly Circus Dark City 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm City Of Angels 7pm, 9.20pm Deep Impact 12.00pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Mimic 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Palmetto 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm The Replacement Killers 12.00pm, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Sliding Doors 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm, 11.20pm, 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) Leicester Square/The Big Lebowski 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm City Of Angels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm, 12.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Mimic 1.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm, 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Scream 2 4.05pm, 9.15pm Titanic 12.00pm, 4pm, 6pm

WARNER VILLAGE
(0171-437 4347) Leicester Square/The Big Lebowski 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm City Of Angels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.10pm, 12.25pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Mimic 1.40pm, 3.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 11.10pm, 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Scream 2 4.05pm, 9.15pm Titanic 12.00pm, 4pm, 6pm

WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-592 2020) Dagmar/Village Heathway City Of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Deep Impact 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Mimic 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm The Object Of My Affection 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Palmetto 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Sliding Doors 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Star Kid 4.30pm Titanic 2.05pm, 6pm The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

DAGENHAM
(0181-592 2020) Dagmar/Village Heathway City Of Angels 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Deep Impact 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Mimic 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm The Object Of My Affection 1.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Palmetto 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Sliding Doors 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Star Kid 4.30pm Titanic 2.05pm, 6pm The Wedding Singer 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.30pm

EDGWARE
(0181-381 2556) Edgware Deep Impact 5.30pm The Wedding Singer 5.30pm, 8.30pm

EDMONTON
(0181-381 2556) Edgware Deep Impact 5.30pm The Wedding Singer 5.30pm, 8.30pm

LEE VALLEY UCI 12
(0890-888990) Tottenham Hale City Of Angels 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 9.20pm Deep Impact 4.50pm, 7.35pm, 10.15pm Jab Pyar Kisse Hota Hai 8.45pm Mimic 4.15pm, 6.55pm, 9.35pm The Object Of My Affection 3.55pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Palmetto 4.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.55pm The Replacement Killers 10pm Scream 2 5.45pm Sliding Doors 4.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Soul Food 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm Titanic 4.40pm, 8.35pm The Wedding Singer 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm Wild Things 4.25pm, 7pm Wishmaster 5pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm

ELALING
(0181-507 8444) Barking City Of Angels 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Deep Impact 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Mimic 1.50pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Sliding Doors 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm Soul Food 1.05

TUESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

THERE IS a school of thought - Danny Baker is one of its proponents - that maintains that Anthony Newley (right) is one of the all-time showbiz greats, a genius who has never received his due. In the first 10 minutes of *The World of Anthony Newley* (8pm R2), a celebration of 50 years in the business, doubts set in: are they right? Then we hear his

cockney-jazz deconstruction of "Pop Goes the Weasel", and you realise he is terrible after all. Still, he is never dull - "What Kind of Fool Am I?" remains one of the most fascinatingly bad performances ever committed to record - and you may want to stick around to hear Bowie admitting that he based his own singing voice on the master's.



ROBERT HANKS

A profile of cult classical broadcaster Steve Post, whose melancholic style and ad-libbed news bulletins sometimes get him into trouble. What does the US media's relationship with classical music say about American culture? Why do classical stations play so much Mozart? And why do so many classical presenters sound like airline pilots? 9.55 *Fibonacci Sequence*. Mozart: Adagio in C, K580a. Berkeley: Trio for horn, violin and piano, Op 44. Ibert: Cinq pieces en trio for oboe, clarinet and bassoon. 10.45 *Night Waves*. Richard Coles discusses American journalist Ron Rosenbaum's new book, *Explaining Hitler*, and reassesses Dostoevsky's prophetic novel *The Possessed*, as the Maly Drama Theatre of St Petersburg bring their opera adaptation to London. Bill Buford of the New Yorker files his weekly letter from across the Atlantic. 11.30 *Jazz Notes*. 12.00 *Composer of the Week*: C P E Bach. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 *Through the Night*.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 *Today*. 9.00 *Unreliable Evidence*. 9.30 *You Probably Think This Song is about You*. 9.45 *Serial: The Doctor*, the Detective and Arthur Conan Doyle. 10.00 *NEWS*: Women's Hour. 11.00 *NEWS*: In a Stately Pleasure Garden. 11.30 *Dinner Ladies*. (R)

12.00 *NEWS*: You and Yours. 12.57 *Weather*. 1.00 *The World at One*. 1.30 *Tricks of the Trade*. 2.00 *NEWS*: The Archers. 2.15 *Afternoon Play*: Ben Sees It Through. (R) 3.00 *NEWS*: The Exchange (0171) 580 4444. 3.30 *Elementary My Dear Rankin*. 3.45 *Crime Stories*. 4.00 *NEWS*: A Good Read. 4.30 *Shop Talk*. 5.00 PM. 5.57 *Weather*. 6.00 *Six O'Clock News*. 6.30 *The Mark Steel Revolution*. 7.00 *NEWS*: The Archers. 7.15 *Front Row*. Mark Lawson gives the verdict on new cinema releases, including *Love and Death on Long Island*, which stars John Hurt as a reclusive, lovestruck writer. 7.45 *Under One Roof*: Under Pressure. By Mike Walker, based on the original story by Michele Hansen. Gillian attempts to restore the art of conversation by disconnecting the family television. Part 2 of 5. With Paola Dionisotti, Edna Dora, Luisa Bradshaw-White and Irene Sutcliffe. Director: Cathryn Horn. 8.00 *NEWS*: File on 4. Jolyon Jenkins reports on major issues, changing attitudes and important events at home and abroad. 8.40 *In Touch*. Peter White with news for visually impaired people. 9.00 *NEWS*: Case Notes. Graham Easton looks at what the health care system has to offer us. 9.30 *Unreliable Evidence*. With the

aid of expert guests, Clive Anderson - former barrister and grand inquisitor of the stars - cuts through the legal jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses our cherished legal system. 10.00 *The World Tonight*. 10.45 *Book at Bedtime*: *Scarlet and Black*. By Stendhal, abridged in ten parts by Micheline Wandor, read by Greg Wise. 7: The Marquis's father decides that she is in love with Julien and makes advances that both flatter and frighten him. (R) 11.00 *The Two Derrys*. Showbiz legends Danny Farrant and Danny De La Tour take to the stage of the London Palladium in the first of four programmes which see the very fabric of light entertainment fall apart. Written and performed by Peter Serafinowicz and Lewis Macleod. 11.30 *Talking Pictures*. 12.00 *News*. 12.30 *The Late Book*: Bombay Ice. 12.48 *Shipping Forecast*. 1.00 *As World Service*. 5.30 *World News*. 5.35 *Shipping Forecast*. 5.40 *Inshore Forecast*. 5.45 *Prayer for the Day*. 5.47 - 6.00 *Farming Today*.

RADIO 4 LW (98kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 *Daily Service*. 12.00 - 12.04 *News Headlines*: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 *Shipping Forecast*. 11.30 - 12.00 *Today in Parliament*.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(93.1-93.9MHz MW) 6.00 *The Breakfast Programme*. 9.00 *Nicky Campbell*. 12.00 *The Midday News*. 1.00 *Wimbledon and World Cup*. 7.55 *World Cup 98*. Ian Payne introduces commentary on the final second-phase game in St Etienne between the winners of Group H and the runners-up in Group G. 11.00 *Late Night Live*. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including 10.30 a full sports roundup. 11.00 *News* and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a late-night topical discussion. 1.00 *Up All Night*. 5.00 - 6.00 *Morning Reports*.

CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 *Nick Bailey*. 8.00 *Henry Kelly*. 12.00 *Requests*. 2.00 *Concerts*. 3.00 *Jamie Crichton*. 6.30 *Newsnight*. 7.00 *Smooth Classics* at Seven. 9.00 *Evening Concert*. 10.00 *Alan Mann*. 2.00 *Concerts*. 3.00 - 6.00 *Mark Griffiths*.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125.187-126.012MHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 7.00 *Chris Evans*. 10.00 *Russ Williams*. 1.00 *Nick Abbot*. 4.00 *Robin Banks*. 5.00 *Ray Cokes* from 6.45pm. 7.30 *Ray Cokes*. 10.00 *Mark Forster*. 2.00 *Cairn Jones*. 5.00 - 7.00 *Jeremy Clark*.

WORLD SERVICE

(198kHz LW) 1.00 *Newsdesk*. 1.30 *The Farming World*. 1.45 *Britain Today*. 2.00 *Newsdesk*. 2.30 *Discovery*. 3.00 *Newsdesk*. 3.30 *Meridian (Live)*. 4.00 *World News*. 4.45 *World Business Report*. 4.55 *Sports Roundup*. 4.57 *The World Today* (0430-0700) on 198kHz (SW 5875kHz only). 4.55 *Off the Shelf*. Something to Hide (SW 5875 kHz only). 5.30 *Outlook* (SW 5875kHz only). 5.55 - 6.30 *Take Five* (SW 7235kHz only).

TALK RADIO

6.30 *Breakfast Show*. 9.00 *Scott Chisholm*. 12.00 *Lorraine Kelly*. 2.00 *Tommy Boyd*. 3.30 *World Cup Second Round Live Commentary*. 5.30 *Peter Deeley*. 7.00 *Moz Deas*. 8.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 9.00 *Moz Deas*. 10.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 11.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 12.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 1.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 2.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 3.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 4.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 5.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 6.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 7.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 8.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 9.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 10.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 11.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 12.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 1.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 2.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 3.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 4.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 5.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 6.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 7.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 8.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 9.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 10.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 11.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 12.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 1.00 *World Cup Phone-In*. 2.00 *World Cup 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